

IS SILENCE GOLDEN? WILL STREEP REIGN?

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Weekend



DOWNTURN

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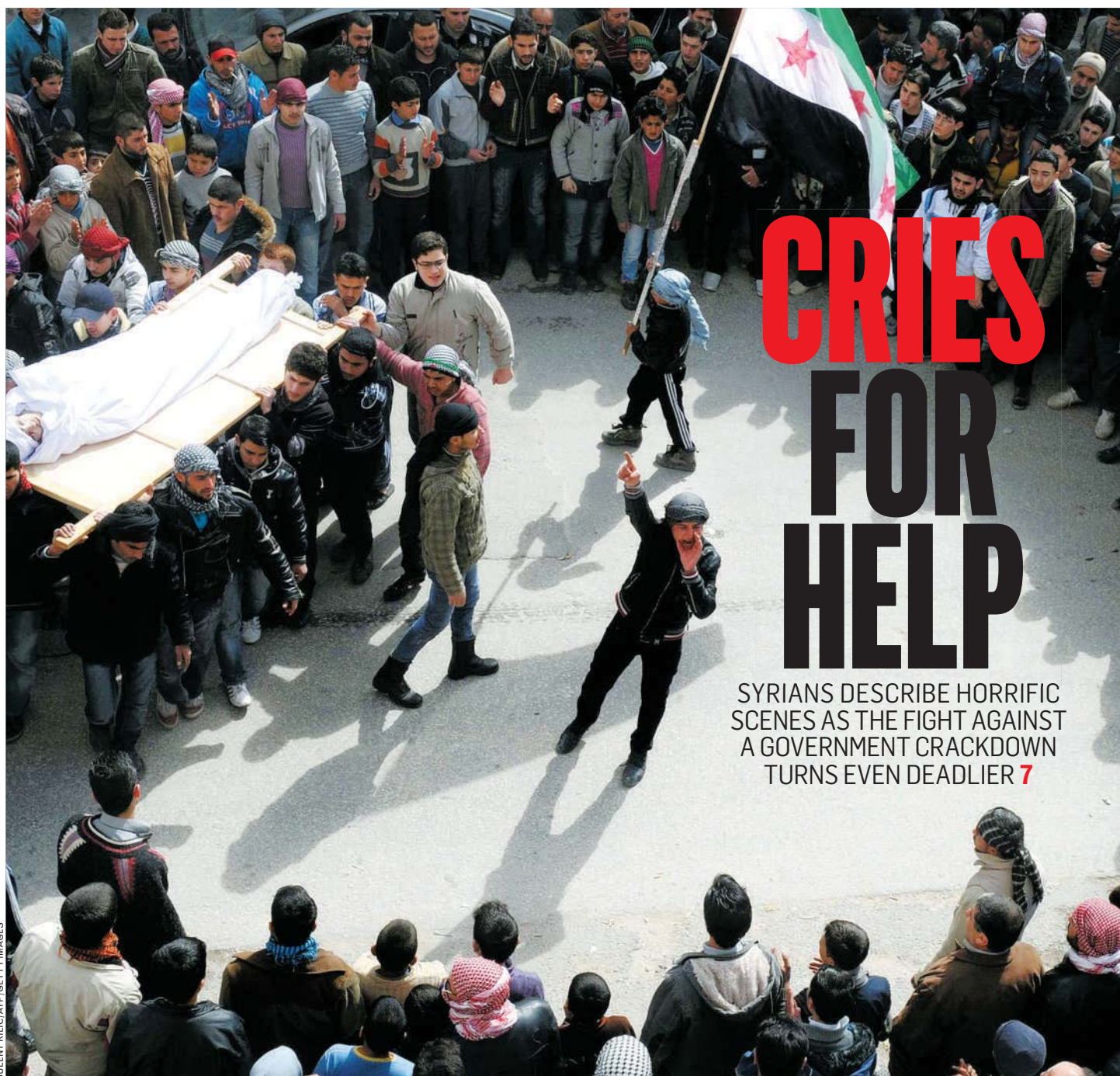
ROAD HAZARD

Soaring gas prices may undercut Obama's re-election chance **3**



FOR EXTENDED FORECAST, SEE PAGE 33

FEBRUARY 24, 2012 | A PUBLICATION OF *The Washington Post* | NEWS, ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS, LIFESTYLES | **FREE DAILY**



CRIES FOR HELP

SYRIANS DESCRIBE HORRIFIC SCENES AS THE FIGHT AGAINST A GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN TURNS EVEN DEADLIER **7**

Syrians carry a youth reportedly killed in violence in the Idlib region Thursday. More than 5,000 people have died in the 11-month crackdown led by President Bashar Assad.

eo

eye openers

IMPOSTERS

The First Warning Signs Were the Tie and Briefcase

A man who claimed to be the new manager of a Denny's, then cooked himself a cheeseburger and fries, is facing charges. Police say James Summers, wearing a tie and carrying a briefcase, claimed he was sent by the Denny's corporate office Tuesday to run the restaurant in Madison, Wis. The actual manager called her supervisors while Summers prepared a meal. (AP)

FOUNDING FATHERS

Mount Vernon Is Intrigued

A Dakota City, Neb., woman is auctioning on eBay a McDonald's Chicken McNugget that resembles George Washington. Rebekah Speights is selling it to raise money for a church summer camp. She found the McNugget three years ago and has kept it in her freezer since. The auction ends next week. (AP)

GOVERNMENT

Democracy in Action

People in one small area of Kentucky still won't be able to buy alcohol — a decision made by the flip of a coin. A vote held Wednesday on whether to allow alcohol sales in the Graham Precinct in Daviess County ended with a 21-21 vote. So officials flipped a half-dollar coin to decide the issue. David Osborne, the county clerk, said the election's outcome was "unprecedented" in an issue vote. The county has 65 precincts where alcohol sales are legal and 17 where they are not. (AP)

The Big Picture

MIKE GROLL/AP



REDEFINING 'FRONT-ROW SEATS': Fans watch as Serbia's Vuk Radjenovic and his teammates train for the four-man bobsled world championships in Lake Placid, N.Y., on Wednesday. (AP)

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Running on Fumes?

Rising gas prices may cloud Obama's re-election hopes

Washington

Soaring gasoline prices are threatening to undercut President Obama's re-election prospects and offering Republicans an easy target. With prices pushing \$4 a gallon and threatening to go even higher, Obama sought Thursday to confront rising public anxiety and strike back at his GOP critics.

Obama said dismissively that all the Republicans can talk about is more drilling — “a bumper sticker ... a strategy to get politicians through an election” — when the nation's energy challenges demand much more. On Thursday, he promoted the expansion of domestic oil and gas exploration but also the devel-



Demonstrators take part in a prayer vigil for lower gas prices Thursday in D.C.

opment of new forms of energy.

For all the political claims, economists say there's not much a president of either party can do about gasoline prices. Certainly not in the short term. At an average of \$3.58

a gallon, prices are already up 25 cents since Jan. 1, and experts say they could reach a record \$4.25 a gallon by Memorial Day.

Those higher prices could be a daily reminder to voters to question

Obama's contention that he's making the nation more secure.

Obama's Republican challengers aren't letting it all slide by. They have stepped up their attacks and they're full of promises.

In Wednesday's debate, Newt Gingrich said he developed a program for “\$2.50-a-gallon gaso-

70%

The portion of Americans who find gas prices a deeply important issue, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll Wednesday. (AP)

line.” Rick Santorum has warned of \$5-a-gallon gas and Mitt Romney suggested that even more troubling than rising gas prices was Iranian President Mahmoud “Ahmadinejad with nuclear weapons.”

In his speech at the University of Miami on Thursday, Obama sought to draw a contrast with his GOP challengers. “We've heard the same thing for 30 years. Well, the American people aren't stupid.”

TOM RAUM (AP)

In Brief

MONTEBELLO, CALIF

L.A. Teacher Arrested In School Sex Scandal



Cortez

Gabriela Cortez, a high school teacher in Los Angeles, was arrested Wednesday after two male students said they had sex with her, police said Thursday.

The arrest was the seventh involving allegations of sexual misconduct at the Los Angeles Unified School District in the past month. (AP)

FORT MEADE, MD.

Army Private Defers Plea in WikiLeaks Case

An Army private declined to enter a plea Thursday to charges he engineered the biggest leak of classified information in U.S. history. Pfc. Bradley Manning also deferred a choice of whether to be tried by a military jury or judge alone. He allegedly gave WikiLeaks more than 700,000 documents and video clips. (AP)

RALEIGH, N.C.

Edwards' Mistress Wins Ownership of Sex Tape

Rielle Hunter, the former mistress of John Edwards, has won ownership Thursday of a sex tape she filmed with the former presidential candidate as he was running for the White House. She sued former Edwards aide Andrew Young and his wife in 2010 over the tape and other personal items the couple claimed she left in a box of trash. (AP)

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Alaska Releases Last Of Ex-Gov. Palin's Emails

The state of Alaska on Thursday released what officials say are the last of Sarah Palin's emails from her time as governor. Citizens and news organizations first requested Palin's emails in September 2008. (AP)

Judge Acquits Man Accused Of Killing His Newlywed Wife

Birmingham, Ala.

Alabama judge circuit Judge Tommy Nail on Thursday acquitted the man accused of drowning his newlywed wife during a honeymoon diving trip to Australia eight years ago, saying in an unusual ruling that prosecutors did not prove the man intentionally killed his wife to collect on a life insurance policy.

Gabe Watson, 34, had faced life in prison without parole if convicted of murdering his wife, Tina Thomas Watson, in 2003.

JAY REEVES (AP)



Watson

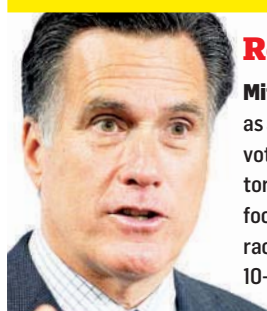
Social Issues Could Haunt GOP

Focus on abortion, birth control may alienate moderates

Mesa, Ariz.

The longer GOP presidential candidates compete for conservative activists' favor, the more they risk alienating centrist voters who might feel that arguments over birth control are crowding out talk about how to create jobs.

Wednesday's televised debate highlighted the dilemma. The four contenders engaged in long, sometimes dense discussions of Planned Parenthood, education policy and congressional earmarks.



Romney Focuses on Santorum

Mitt Romney tried to upend Rick Santorum's image as a defender of conservative ideals Thursday, telling voters in Arizona and Michigan that the former senator is just another give-and-take politician. Romney's focus on Santorum reinforced the notion that the GOP race is mostly a two-man contest heading toward the 10-state “Super Tuesday” primary March 6. (AP)

Talk of jobs and the economy seemed to consume less time and stir less passion. That's partly because of the questions asked by CNN moderator John King. But in general, his topics closely tracked the news coming from the campaign trail, and the candidates rarely tried to change the subject.

Rick Santorum's recent rise in the polls has focused new attention on social issues, especially abortion and birth control. Those topics fire up the religiously conservative crowds he often draws, but they might turn off more moderate voters worried more about jobs and gas prices. CHARLES BABINGTON (AP)



Pepsi's Next Move: Pepsi is hoping to win back soda drinkers with a compromise. Some people don't like the calories in regular soda but loathe the taste of zero-calorie diet drinks. So the nation's No. 2 cola company is rolling out “Pepsi Next,” a cola that has about half the calories of regular Pepsi at 60 calories per can. The cola, which is slated to hit store shelves nationally by the end of March, is Pepsi's biggest product launch in years. (AP)

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Nation

Marine Helicopter Crash Kills 7

Midair collision one of deadliest training accidents in years

San Diego

Two Marine Corps helicopters collided in midair over a remote section of the California desert during a nighttime exercise, killing seven Marines in one of the deadliest military training accidents in years.

The latest in a series of crashes involving troops from Camp Pendleton occurred about 8 p.m. Wednesday near the Chocolate Mountains along the Arizona border and involved an AH-1W Cobra carrying two crew members and a UH-1 Huey utility helicopter carrying five, Lt. Maureen Dooley with Miramar Air Base in San Diego said Thursday.

Six of the victims were from Camp Pendleton — the largest base on the West Coast — and one

When Training Exercises Turn Deadly

Several accidents have happened in the past year involving Marine training in Southern California. In September, a twin-engine, two-seat AH-1W Cobra helicopter went down during training, killing two Marine pilots. In August, two Marines were ejected from their F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet as it plunged toward the Pacific Ocean, and they spent hours in the dark, chilly ocean before they were rescued. In July, a Marine was killed during a training exercise when his UH-1Y helicopter went down in a remote section of Camp Pendleton. Another Hornet sustained at least \$1 million in damage when its engine caught fire in March during a training exercise; eight sailors, a Marine and two civilians were injured. (AP)

was from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona. Their identities had not been released.

Officials were investigating the accident, gathering most of the evidence Thursday after the sun rose in the area favored by the U.S. military and its allies for training because the hot, dusty conditions and craggy mountains replicate Afghanistan's harsh environment and the clear weather allows for constant flying.

Cpl. Steven Posy with Marine

Corps Air Station Miramar said the weather was mild Wednesday night.

The AH-1W carries a crew of two — a pilot and gunner — and is considered the Marine Corps' main attack helicopter. The UH-1Y, which is replacing the aging version of the Huey utility helicopter first used during the Vietnam War, carries a crew of one or two pilots, a crew chief and other crew members, depending on the mission. JULIE WATSON (AP)

Ga. Storm Wreaks Havoc on 100 Homes



BRITTANY HANNAH/AP

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS HELP TO CLEAR tree limbs off of a home Thursday in Rome, Ga. Up to 100 homes were damaged late Wednesday by a storm that toppled trees and knocked out power to thousands of customers.



ASTRONOMY

Three's a Crowd

Stargazers of the world are getting a treat this weekend. On Saturday and again Sunday, Venus, Jupiter and Earth's moon will converge for a brilliant night show. The celestial encounter will be visible from around the world at twilight. The moon will appear closer to Venus on Saturday and closer to Jupiter on Sunday. (AP)

\$51.5M The amount the Obama administration plans to spend in its continuing battle to protect the Great Lakes from destructive Asian carp, federal officials announced Thursday. (AP)

Obama Sends Apology to Karzai

Letter comes as fury over Koran burnings roils Afghanistan

Kabul, Afghanistan

President Obama apologized to Afghans on Thursday for the burning of Korans at a U.S. military base, trying to assuage rising anti-American sentiment as an Afghan soldier gunned down two American troops during a third day of angry protests.

The U.S.-led coalition says the Muslim holy books were sent by mistake to a garbage burn pit Tuesday at Bagram Air Field and the case is under investigation. A military official said it appeared prison detainees were exchange-



Officially Sorry

Presidential apologies are rare, and officials said President Obama's apology letter to Hamid Karzai, delivered Thursday, expressed regret for the actions of U.S. forces in Afghanistan on Tuesday, which "unintentionally mishandled" Korans. Then-White House press secretary Dana Perino apologized on behalf of President George W. Bush in 2008 after a U.S. serviceman shot a Koran, White House press secretary Jay Carney noted. (AP)

ing messages by making notations in the texts.

The explanation and apologies from U.S. officials have yet to calm outrage over the incident, which has raised tension between international troops and their Afghan partners.

Thousands of protesters, some

shouting "Death to America!" have staged demonstrations across Afghanistan, which have sparked clashes that left at least five demonstrators dead. On Wednesday, six people died in protests in Kabul and three other provinces.

The civil unrest comes at a time when Afghan President Hamid

Karzai is trying to negotiate a long-term agreement with Washington to govern the activities of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after 2014, when most foreign combat troops will have left.

An Afghan delegation visited Bagram as part of the investigation. They issued a statement Thursday calling for an end to protests and accused insurgents of infiltrating the gatherings to foment violence. They said they expected those responsible for the Koran burning to be prosecuted through the U.S. military court system.

Karzai called for calm until the investigation is complete, but the incident highlighted the fitful and often strained relationship between the two nations. AMIR SHAH AND DEB RIECHMANN (AP)

In Brief

CAIRO

Mubarak Denies Charges In a Letter to Court

Egypt's ousted President Hosni Mubarak has told the court trying him for complicity in the killing of nearly 900 protesters during last year's uprising that he is saddened by what he called the "baseless" claims against him. Mubarak's remarks were made in a memo submitted to the court Wednesday, and published in the Tahrir newspaper Thursday. (AP)

PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

Car Bombing Kills 12

A powerful car bomb ripped through an outdoor minibus terminal in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 12 people and wounding 32 others, officials said. The blast tore through a dozen vehicles waiting to transport passengers from the city of Peshawar to other areas of the country. (AP)

Leaders Pledge Aid For Somalia

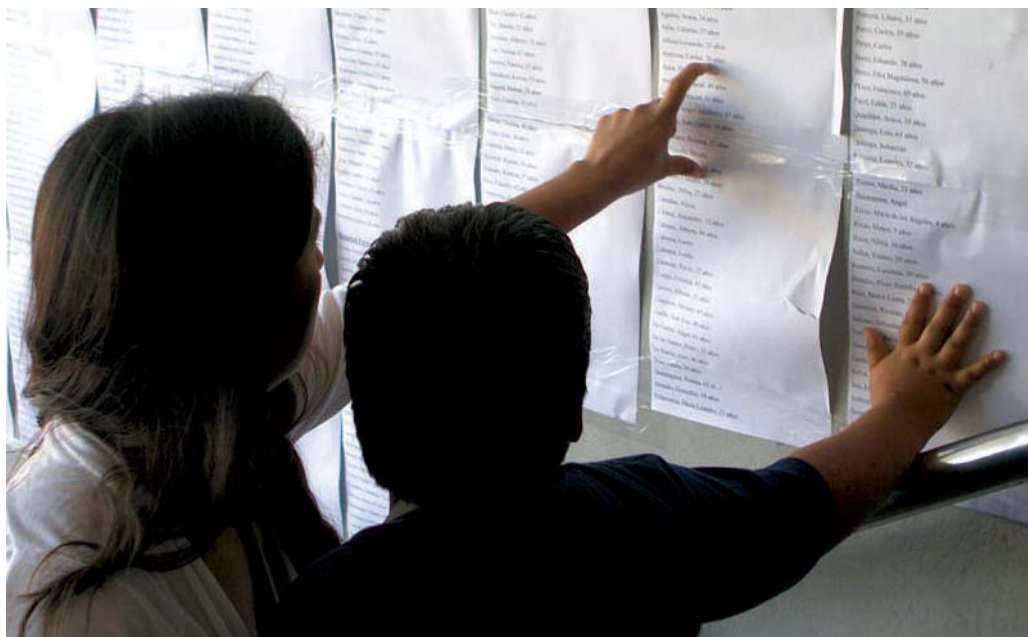
London

World leaders pledged new help to tackle terrorism and piracy in Somalia, but insisted Thursday that the troubled East African nation must quickly form a stable government and threatened penalties against those who hamper its progress.

"If the rest of us just sit back and look on, we will pay a price for doing so," British Prime Minister David Cameron said, warning that Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked militant group, al-Shabab, could export terrorism to Europe and the United States.

Fifty-five nations and international groups, including Somalia's United Nations-backed transitional government, attended the talks. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon were also present at the meeting. (AP)

Argentines Hunt for Survivors of Train Crash



RELATIVES STUDY A LIST OF PEOPLE Thursday to determine what hospital injured commuters were sent to after Wednesday's train crash in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The rush-hour accident killed at least 50 people and wounded hundreds. A federal judge was leading an investigation into what caused the commuter train to slam into a barrier at a station.



Delicate Dispute: Polish and U.S. officials are debating the fate of a sensitive object: a barrack that once housed doomed prisoners at the Nazis' Auschwitz death camp and is now on display at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Poland is demanding the return of the artifact, which has been on loan to the museum for more than 20 years. But museum officials are resisting, saying the artifact is too fragile to be moved. (AP)

Hearsay



"I will return as I always return: with more energy, more enthusiasm, more happiness."

— **PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ**, IN A LETTER TO VENEZUELA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING PERMISSION TO TRAVEL TO CUBA FOR CANCER SURGERY. IN A BROADCAST THURSDAY, HE REASSURED HIS SUPPORTERS THAT "I WILL LIVE! I WILL LIVE!"

World

Eurozone Anticipates 'Mild Recession' This Year

Brussels

Half the economies in the 17-nation eurozone are forecast to shrink this year, raising concerns that government austerity programs introduced to combat unsustainable debt levels are holding back growth.

In its latest projections, the European Commission, the European Union's executive body, forecast a 0.3 percent contraction in the eurozone economy for 2012.

The new forecasts will add to

Meanwhile ...

The Greek Parliament on Thursday approved a massive bond swap that would wipe \$142 billion off the country's privately held debt, part of the country's bailout deal agreed upon this week by eurozone officials. Parliament is also due to vote next week on further austerity measures worth \$4.2 billion, including reductions to already depleted pensions, and deep cuts in health, education and defense spending. (AP)

fears that government cutbacks are having a negative impact. Unemployment levels have been increasing across the region while European banks have been finding it increasingly hard to raise funds.

Olli Rehn, European commissioner for economic and monetary affairs, described the economic conditions for 2012 as a "mild recession."

But though growth had stalled, Rehn said, "We are seeing signs of stabilization in the European economy." (AP)

Attacks Highlight Instability in Iraq

Widespread violence kills 55 people, leaves 225 others injured

Baghdad

Bombs and deadly shootings relentlessly pounded Iraqis on Thursday, killing at least 55 people and wounding more than 225 in a widespread wave of violence the government called a "frantic attempt" by insurgents to prove the country will never be stable.

Cars burned, school desks were bloodied, victims lay in hospitals and pools of blood were left with the wounded on floors of bombed businesses after the day-long series of attacks in 12 cities across Iraq.

The assault demonstrated how vulnerable the country remains and put the onus for protecting the public solely in the hands of Iraqi forces.

"What is happening today are not simple security violations —



Backstory

Days after U.S. forces left, a Dec. 22 wave of bombs targeting Shiites killed at least 69 people across Iraq. That happened twice more over the next three weeks, killing 78 and 53 people, respectively. Al-Qaeda was blamed for them all. (AP)

it is a huge security failure and disaster," said Ahmed al-Tamimi, a Baghdad resident.

It was the latest of a series of large-scale attacks that insurgents have launched every few weeks since the last U.S. troops left Iraq in mid-December.

The Interior Ministry blamed al-Qaeda for the violence. (AP)

Fire Ravages Refugee Camp in Thailand



A CHILD SURVEYS WHAT'S LEFT after a fire tore through a camp for refugees from Myanmar in Thailand's Tak province Thursday, destroying about 1,000 bamboo shacks, or a fifth of the dwellings. No casualties were reported.

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Cover Story



The mother of Mohammed Shawi, 15, on Wednesday mourns over her son's body after he was gunned down by a sniper during clashes with government forces in Idlib, Syria.

In the Line of Fire



French journalist Edith Bouvier of Le Figaro is pleading with her government to evacuate her from

Syria so she can have an operation. Bouvier said Thursday in a video posted on YouTube that her leg is broken in two places, and that though she has been treated, she needs surgery. She and at least one other journalist were wounded Wednesday by shelling in the city of Homs that killed U.S.-born war correspondent Marie Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik. (AP)

Damascus or Aleppo, has drawn workers and fortune-seekers from across Syria.

"They are blanketing Baba Amr with shells and snipers. They are destroying it street by street, inch by inch," local activist Omar Shaker said.

Residents say 70 percent of the area is now uninhabitable in winter weather, with temperatures dipping close to freezing some nights. Walls have collapsed and windows are shattered from the shells that can fall as often as two per minute during the heaviest barrages.

Another Homs activist, Mulham al-Jundi, called the conditions "catastrophic" in parts of the city. Long lines form at even rumors of bread, cans of food or fuel, he said.

Syria's state-run media pushed back with its own version: Photos released by the official news agency SANA show markets full of food in Homs. It called the claims about food shortages "fabricating lies."

The U.N. in January estimated that 5,400 people have been killed during the uprising. Syrian activists put the toll at more than 7,300.

LARA JAKES (AP)

Bloodied Syria Struggles On

Relentless attacks continue as the world debates how to stop Assad

Beirut

Medics stitch wounds with thread used for clothing. Hungry residents risk Syrian government sniper fire or shelling to hunt for dwindling supplies of bread and canned food on the streets of the besieged city of Homs.

The opposition stronghold was being destroyed "inch by inch" by government forces, according to accounts Thursday, while Western and Arab leaders hoped to silence

Meanwhile

Global Effort

The international struggle over Syria's crisis moves Friday to Tunisia for the "Friends of Syria" conference, which is expected to gather more than 70 nations to look at ways to assist the uprising. The U.N. also said Thursday that former secretary-general Kofi Annan would be the U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria. His mandate will be to try to end the violence and arrange a political transition. The U.S. and its European allies remain publicly opposed to direct military intervention. (AP)

the guns long enough to rush in relief aid.

The pressure for "humanitarian corridors" into the central Syrian city of Homs and other places caught in President Bashar Assad's crushing attacks appeared to be part of shifts toward more aggressive steps against his regime after nearly a year of bloodshed.

On Thursday, U.N.-appointed investigators in Geneva said a list for possible crimes-against-humanity prosecution reaches as high as

Assad, and international envoys in London — including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton — made final touches to an expected demand for Assad to call a cease-fire within days to permit emergency shipments of aid.

At least 16 people were killed across Syria, activists said, though one group, the Local Coordination Committees, put the death toll at 40.

The most intense offensive remained in beleaguered Homs, Syria's third-largest city. Its defiance — amid hundreds of civilian casualties in the past weeks — has eroded Assad's narrative that the uprising is the work of "armed thugs" and foreign plots.

The epicenter, the Baba Amr neighborhood, is a collection of slum-like apartment blocks and neglected older homes. The cheaper cost of living, compared with

"Time is against the Assad regime. I wish it were faster."

— BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY **WILLIAM HAGUE**, SPEAKING TO THE BBC ABOUT THE ONGOING CRACKDOWN IN SYRIA.



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Left to Your Devices

Fiddling with electronic devices while riding Metro is generally a bad idea — especially if you'd like to leave the transit system still in possession of said devices. But Deborah Forbes is grateful she had her Kindle last Friday.

Inspired by my column that morning about folks illegally drinking coffee on the train, she handed a copy of Express to a fellow Orange Line passenger who was sipping from a steaming cup and asked her to read it. That's when things got ugly.

"She threw the paper on the floor, and told me I should be careful who I [messed] with because they might be 'carrying,'" Forbes says. She ignored the threat and pulled out her Kindle. Smart move, because the coffee drinker then threw the cup at her. Using the device as a paddle, Forbes batted the projectile away.

There are two lessons here. 1. Try not



By Vicky Hallett

to confront unstable people on Metro. 2. There's a lot more you can do with an electronic gadget besides organizing your Pinterest board.

The latest reason to risk the safety of your iPhone or iPad is an app released this week. Metro Master (\$2.99, Dcmetro.com), created by two recent GW alums, tells you the optimal place to board so you'll be situated as close as possible to the station exit when the train arrives at your destination.



BENDEPENDING.COM

"I love being the first one on the escalator," says David Glidden, who realized that making sure he could manage that at every station would require research. He started taking notes on his iPod touch to remind himself of which car to get on depending on where he was headed. The process became such a pain, he enlisted his pal Andrew Thal to help create a program devoted to exit strategies.

Now, it's a cinch to find out that if you're on the Red Line and want to leave Farragut North via the east L Street exit, you'll want to make sure you're at the first door of the first car. If you'd rather go for the west L Street exit, get to the third door of the fourth car.

Don't care how far you have to walk, as long as you have a seat? The app lets you check rider usage data to determine how crowded each car generally is, so you can aim for one with fewer people. But I'm not promising they won't be unstable.

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In Brief



MARK WILSON/GETTY IMAGES

In 2008, Dick Heller won his lawsuit concerning the District's gun laws.

WASHINGTON

Both Sides Appeal Fee Award in D.C. Gun Case

The District of Columbia and a man who sued the city over its gun laws are both appealing a judge's award of attorneys' fees in the historic case. Both sides gave notice of their appeal Thursday. A judge ordered the city in December to pay more than \$1 million to attorneys for Dick Heller, who sued the city in 2003 over its ban on handgun ownership. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the ban in June 2008, saying it violated the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment. (AP)

RICHMOND, VA.

Va. Kills 'Personhood' Bill in Senate for the Year

A bill that would define life as starting at conception is done this year in the Virginia legislature. With no debate, the Senate voted 24-14 Thursday to send the so-called "personhood" bill back to committee and carry it over to 2013. Senate Democratic Leader Richard Saslaw of Fairfax County made the motion to shelve the bill, and Republican Leader Tommy Norment of James City County supported it. (AP)

RICHMOND, VA.

McDonnell Supports D.C. Budget Autonomy Plan

Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell says he supports budget autonomy for the District of Columbia. Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, chairman of the House committee that oversees the District, has proposed allowing the District to spend its local tax dollars without approval by Congress. Such a bill would allow the District government to continue running in the event of a federal shutdown and let local officials set their own fiscal year. (AP)

Md. OKs Same-Sex Marriage Bill

Measure gets Senate approval, now awaits governor's signature

Annapolis, Md.

A bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in Maryland was approved by the state Senate, which advanced a measure that narrowly cleared the House of Delegates last week.

The final vote by the state Senate ended a yearlong drama in Annapo-

lis over the legislation, and marked the first time an East Coast state south of the Mason-Dixon Line has supported gay nuptials.



O'Malley

The measure now moves to Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, who has said he will sign it. Maryland would join the District and seven states in allowing same-sex marriages. Supporters have cast the bill

Backstory

The bill to legalize same-sex marriage won narrow approval the night of Feb. 17 in the Maryland House of Delegates. The 72-67 vote, which followed a day of emotional and contentious debate, capped a dramatic turnaround from a year ago. But Maryland voters could get the final say: Opponents are widely expected to launch a petition drive that could put the issue on the November ballot. (TWP)

as a major advance in equal rights. Opponents have called it a misguided attempt to redefine the institution of marriage.

Despite one of the largest Democratic majorities in any state legislature, backers of gay marriage in Maryland had to overcome fierce opposition from blocks of African-American lawmakers and those with strong Catholic and evangelical views to cobble together coalitions big enough to pass both chambers. AARON C. DAVIS

(THE WASHINGTON POST)

From Above, One Can See D.C.'s Recovery



RICKY CARO/TWP

TIMOTHY REESE OPERATES a crane at the Marriott Marquis construction site near the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in D.C. Feb. 17. From his perch, he can take in a swath stretching from Silver Spring to Springfield. He has a pretty good view of the area's economy, too, and based on what he sees looking down, things are looking up. | [postlocal.com](#)

Metro to Alter Work for Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington

Metro says it is planning to suspend its aggressive schedule of track work during the cherry blossom season beginning in March.

The transit system says there will be no scheduled weekend track work on Metrorail from March 24 through April 15 because of National Cherry Blossom Festival events. On weekdays, there will be no track work during the day from March 26 through April 13. Track work will take place after 10 p.m. during the season.

Metro says it also plans to add eight-car trains during off-peak hours and on weekends to accommodate higher ridership.

The agency says its ridership increases by an average of more than 15 percent during the cherry blossom season. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Feb. 23

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3 8-1-5
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.) 0-4-7
Mid-day Pick 4 5-2-5-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) 2-6-4-2
Match 5 (Wed.) 19-21-22-30-33 (36)
Multi-Match (Wed.) 23-25-32-34-36-37

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers 1-3-3
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.) 4-6-9
Mid-day DC 4 3-5-5-6
Evening DC 4 (Wed.) 8-6-8-7
Mid-day D.C. Five 6-4-8-9-5
Evening D.C. Five (Wed.) 8-2-4-2-8
Hot Lotto (Wed.) 3-5-32-35-37 (14)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3 8-5-5
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.) 0-6-1
Mid-day Pick 4 3-8-5-9
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) 5-2-0-9
Mid-day Cash 5 6-9-26-29-32
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.) 7-8-11-15-33
Win For Life (Wed.) 6-19-24-29-31-39 (2)

Multi-State Games

Power Play 7-16-17-39-51
Powerball 32

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

sports

The slumping Caps are seeing red as the trade deadline approaches | 12



TV Lineup



Dale Earnhardt Jr. is going for his second career victory at the Daytona 500.

Friday

7 P.M. The struggling Caps try to get back in the win column against the Montreal Canadiens. CSN

8:30 P.M. Can Maryland's women's hoops team follow up its win against Duke with a victory over UNC? CSN+

9 P.M. John Wall is the Wizards' representative in the NBA Rising Stars Challenge. TNT

Saturday

NOON Virginia Tech tips off against Duke in an ACC men's basketball game. Fox5

2 P.M. Georgetown tries to bounce back from its loss at Seton Hall during a home game against Villanova. CBS

2:30 P.M. Maryland's men's basketball team plays Georgia Tech. Fox5

4 P.M. Top-five teams Kansas and Missouri play in the last "Border War." CBS

6 P.M. George Mason visits VCU in a marquee men's basketball game in the CAA. ESPN2

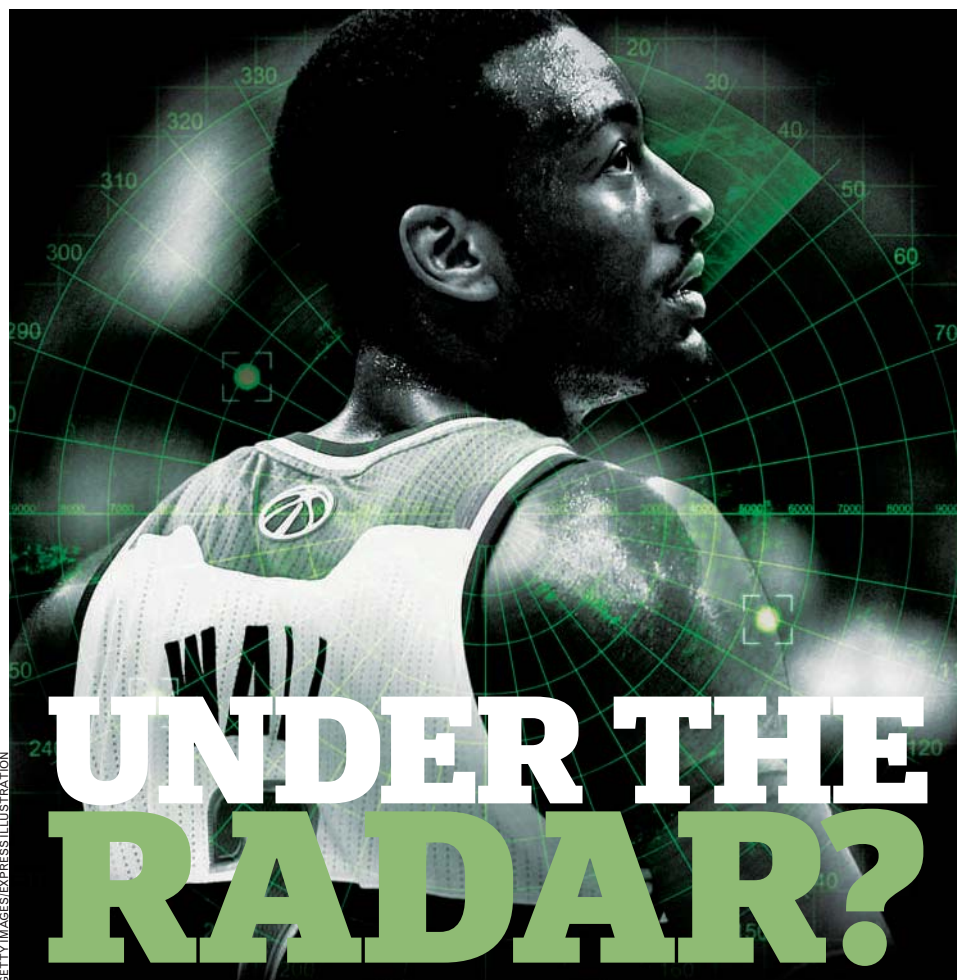
7 P.M. The Caps visit the Toronto Maple Leafs. CSN

8:30 P.M. The NBA's Skills Challenge, 3-point contest and slam dunk competition are on. TNT

Sunday

NOON Dale Earnhardt Jr. aims to return to victory lane during the Daytona 500. Fox

7:30 P.M. The NBA's All-Star Game is in Orlando. TNT



John Wall's star power dims around the league while the Wizards continue to struggle

The Wizards

John Wall came into the NBA last season accompanied by a blaze of hype befitting the No. 1 pick in the draft. The erstwhile Kentucky star was the new face of the franchise and tasked with lifting the moribund Wizards into at least the public consciousness, if not the playoffs.

Wall had the shoe deal, the commercials, the media coverage and the notoriety. But approaching the All-Star break of his second, lockout-

All-Star Reunion

Perhaps the biggest thing John Wall is looking forward to during All-Star weekend is a reunion with former Kentucky teammate DeMarcus Cousins in Friday's Rising Stars game. Cousins had 33 points and Wall tallied 22 assists in the Rookies' victory, so it's a safe bet to expect more of the same since they are paired on Team Chuck. E.S.



truncated, season, Wall is no longer one of the league's primary talking points — usurped by Linsanity, Ricky Rubio, Lob City etc.

Case in point: Wall was the 12th player taken in the Rising Stars Challenge draft conducted by Charles Barkley and Shaquille O'Neal, behind guys like Paul George and Kemba Walker.

"It's most definitely surprising," Wizards forward Rashard Lewis said. "It's John Wall!"

For his part, Wall has maintained his stoic reserve through what has been a turbulent season for the struggling Wizards (7-26).

"You have to mature," Wall said. "That's the business side of the NBA. You just have to keep working on your game to help your team win."

Last season, Wall averaged 16.4 points and 8.3 assists while shooting 41 percent from the floor and 30 percent from 3-point range. One of Wall's stated goals in the off-season was working to become more of an outside threat, and said he spent a large majority of the lockout shooting jumpers.

So far, it's been a mixed bag. Wall is averaging 16.7 points, 7.5 assists and is shooting 42 percent from the field. He's essentially eschewed 3-pointers from his game, taking less than two dozen, but has lowered his assist-to-turnover ratio to 1.82.

At times, it appears Wall is trying too hard to make things happen, often careening into the teeth of opposing defenses without any real plan, something interim coach Randy Wittman has been working to fix.

"He's learning how we want to play and the pace we want to play at," Wittman said. "He's getting an understanding of how he has to play."

Wall has had some great games (38 points, eight assists versus the Rockets) and some clunkers (eight points on 3 of 12 shooting versus the Raptors), which seems about right for a second-year player in a semi-dysfunctional situation.

"From the beginning of the year to now is definitely a different John Wall," Lewis said. "He's not only scoring, but he's getting his teammates the ball. He's getting a lot of us easy baskets, and that's the John Wall we need to see every night." ELLIOTT SMITH



He's Lin the Money: New York Knicks sensation Jeremy Lin, who famously slept on a teammate's couch the night before his breakout performance, now has an apartment of his own. The two-bedroom rental is on the 38th floor of the residences at the W New York Downtown Hotel and overlooks the Statue of Liberty. The Wall Street Journal reported that Lin signed the contract Wednesday. (AP)

Hoyas Strike the Right Balance

Freshmen's attitude adds chemistry for No. 9 Georgetown

Hoyas Hoops

Who knew the Hoyas had to travel 11,000 miles to discover their secret to this year's success?

Chemistry has been a theme for this season's Hoyas team since their summer trip to China. Coach John Thompson III has consistently said Shanghai is where the team members learned to trust each other and prove what they were capable of — a feat reached quickly due to the freshmen's incoming attitudes.

"As the head coach, it's refreshing as hell, let me just tell you that," said Thompson, whose No. 9-ranked Hoyas (20-6, 10-5) are tied for fourth place in the Big East. "Because our freshmen, they just care about winning. They aren't thinking about minutes, points, shots; they're just thinking about



Georgetown swarms Seton Hall's Herb Pope in Tuesday's game, won by the Pirates.



"I have come to expect a lot from this group. Certain teams, certain years, they aren't capable of accomplishing things. This group, I think I can hold them to a very high standard, realistically."

— JOHN THOMPSON III, WHO IS FEELING GOOD ABOUT HIS YOUNG HOYAS A WEEK BEFORE THE BIG DANCE.



2 P.M.
Saturday | CBS



how they can help."

That attitude has not only shown up in the totals but permeates the Georgetown atmosphere. The freshmen unknowingly created a culture of "we." Older Hoyas say it reflects a maturity that has benefitted the whole team.

"To tell you the truth, they don't even seem like freshmen anymore," senior guard Jason Clark said. "They accept their roles; they come in and play hard. They get after it at practice every single day. They're ... doing what they're supposed to do."

On Tuesday, the Hoyas failed as

a unit against surging Seton Hall, which used its 73-55 to make its case for an NCAA Tournament bid. Thompson called his team's effort in the game, in which the Pirates made 61 percent of their shots, "atrocious."

Saturday's home against Villanova gives Georgetown a chance to show its resiliency. The last time the Hoyas put forth a similarly disappointing effort was a 72-60 loss to Pittsburgh on Jan. 28. Georgetown then won four of its next five contests, with its only loss coming in overtime against No. 2 Syracuse.

The key has been finding the right balance of contributions on each night. As proof of the teamwork, an assist has been registered on 58.6 percent of the Hoyas' field goals this season. That's a stat other teams pick up on quickly.

"You can't just pick one guy you have to stop, can't really pick one guy that's a defensive weakness, and I think that's why they've been so consistent most of the season," Villanova coach Jay Wright said Thursday. "I just think they are a really balanced team." KYSTINA LUCIDO

Padgett Rises to the Occasion for Terrapins



2:30 P.M.
Saturday | FOX5



Terps Men's Hoops

James Padgett is not the go-to guy. Never has been. In fact, for the last three years, the Maryland Terrapins have consistently found someone to nudge him to the bench and steal his minutes. First, it was Dino Gregory and Jordan Williams. Now, it's Ashton Pankey and Alex Len.

Padgett, a junior from Brooklyn, N.Y., is soft-spoken, and his game is completely devoid of flash. But he always just seems to be there, never goes away.

He was there this week when coach Mark Turgeon reinserted him into the starting lineup after he came off the bench for two games. The Terrapins had just lost a spec-



Maryland forward James Padgett dunks against Miami on Wednesday night.

tacularly embarrassing game, in which they were outscored by Virginia 40-13 in the second half.

Padgett opened Wednesday's game against Miami by dunking on the first possession and followed with two more quick baskets, helping Maryland jump out to a quick 10-3 lead.

Then with 44 seconds left in the game, he was fouled while putting in the game-tying basket. A 58 percent free-throw shooter, Padgett then calmly sank his foul shot to give the Terrapins (16-11, 6-7 ACC) the lead for good. They followed their most deflating loss with their most encouraging victory. Padgett's 16 points, nearly twice his season average, and six rebounds were critical.

"I just felt the building getting louder and louder," senior Sean Mosley said. "When Padgett got

that one-and-one, it was huge for us. He's been coming along slowly but surely."

Padgett's progression has been sharp this year. He averaged barely three points a game in his first two seasons in College Park, but this year is averaging 9.1 points and 5.7 rebounds per game.

On Saturday, against ACC bottom-dweller Georgia Tech, the Terrapins have the opportunity to build momentum going into the final week of the regular season and games against No. 7 North Carolina and No. 25 Virginia. Padgett hopes the victory over a Miami team still battling for postseason positioning can help propel Maryland back into NCAA Tournament consideration.

"We needed this to keep the momentum and not get satisfied going forward," Padgett said.

DEREK TURNER



RULINGS

Braun in the Clear

Last year's National League MVP Ryan Braun on Thursday won his appeal of a 50-game suspension after the Brewers slugger failed a test for performance-enhancing drugs. Major League Baseball announced its decision a day before Braun was scheduled to report to spring training. No reason was given for the decision, which now allows the 28-year-old to begin his quest to clear his reputation sullied by October's failed test. (EXPRESS)

Sports

Swengali

Close Seems So Far Away for Caps

Two lousy points.

That's all that separates the Capitals from first place in the Southeast Division. It's also the difference between Washington's 10th-place standing in the Eastern Conference and eighth place — the last playoff spot.



By Matt Swenson

That means the Capitals are just one measly win in regulation away from being in a playoff position, be it as the conference's last team or in third

place, where the Southeast winner is bound to land.

Can Washington overcome this deficit? Of course. Will it? That seems more unlikely.

Usually at this time of season, the Caps are playing their best hockey.

Hunter was a great player in D.C. He hasn't proved to be a great coach yet.

The past week, though, has been one of the worst for the team since before the Bruce Boudreau era.

As Monday's trade deadline nears, the Caps are riding a three-game losing streak. Even worse, coach Dale Hunter put Wednesday's 5-2 loss solely on goalie Tomas Vokoun, saying the veteran wasn't "as sharp as he should have been."

Hunter was a great player in D.C. He hasn't proved to be a great coach yet. And he's in line for criticism, considering he was brought in to breathe new life into a team that's been among the NHL's best for years. Instead, the Caps are so lifeless that two points never seemed so far away.

But who knows? Maybe this is the year they squeak into the playoffs and then make a great run.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Caps Show Signs of Cracking

Frustration mounts after poor showings in last 3 road games

The Capitals

Alex Ovechkin is injured. Players are talking about being outworked and not being mentally prepared.

The usually upbeat owner calls one performance "unacceptable" and all but declares the next game a must-win, only to watch it turn into another clunker.

The coach's idea of a "solid game" these days is one in which the team falls behind after 10 minutes instead of the usual three or four.

Oh, yeah, and the trade deadline is a few days away.

Such is the state of the Capitals, a team whose annual chase for a title is turning into a feeble attempt just to make the playoffs.

They are currently are sitting outside the postseason — in 10th place in the Eastern Conference and third in the Southeast — after a road trip in which they lost their final three games by a combined score of 12-3.

"The last two games, we weren't



Tomas Vokoun skates off the ice after he was pulled during the Capitals' 5-2 loss to the Ottawa Senators on Wednesday night.

"We had huge expectations And it hasn't played out the way we planned."

— MIKE KNUBLE, ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE CAPITALS RIGHT NOW — ECHOING A SENTIMENT USUALLY FELT IN APRIL OR MAY, WHEN THE TEAM HAS LOST A PLAYOFF SERIES.

ready to play," defenseman Karl Alzner said. "We weren't prepared mentally."

With such signs that perhaps not everybody has their heart in it anymore, the players held their own meeting Thursday morning. It only lasted a couple of minutes, and, according to Alzner, served to make sure that no one would be trying to "mail it in."

Even the daily blog posting from owner Ted Leonsis was a bit subdued. The same boss who deemed "unacceptable" the 5-0 loss at Carolina on Monday and declared "We need that win" before the Ottawa game watched the latest loss and wrote something that seemed a bit cryptic: "There is a lot to think about — there is a lot to read. There is a lot to do." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Morse: Last Year Was 'Tip of the Iceberg'

The Nationals

Michael Morse often wondered whether he would ever get the chance to show people the kind of baseball player he always thought he could be.

But the Nationals left fielder never lost his confidence. "That never went away," Morse said. "I always just thought, if I get an opportunity, I'm kicking the door in."

He did.

Morse is coming off a breakout season in which he hit .303 with 31 home runs and 95 RBI, and had an on-base percentage of .360. He

was rewarded with a two-year, \$10.5 million contract extension.

"Last year to me was very humbling," Morse said. "It was something that I always knew I could do, but now I feel like it's the tip of the iceberg."

Morse is targeting his on-base percentage and being more consistent for areas of improvement. Though he wants to maintain his aggressiveness at the plate, he wants to improve his pitch selection to better his walk total while reducing his strikeouts.

"One of the biggest things is that he really started believing in him-



PATRICK MCDERMOTT/GETTY IMAGES

Michael Morse got a two-year, \$10.5 million contract after a strong 2011 season.

Backstory

Originally drafted by the White Sox in 2000, Morse was traded in 2004 to the Seattle Mariners, where he made it to the big leagues as a shortstop. Injuries derailed his chances in Seattle, and he was eventually traded in 2009 to the Nationals, where he became a part-time player until last year's breakout season. (AP)

self," Nationals hitting coach Rick Eckstein said. "Hopefully, we can pick up from where we left off last year and continue to roll." (AP)

lookout

weekend 02.24.12

Sweet and
spicy ways
to create
award-worthy
kernels **16**

pop artistry

The Washington Post

Behind the Headlines

Peeling Back the Labels: Black Women in America

The Washington Post **Behind the Headlines** discussion series is partnering with Howard University's Women as Change Agents (WACA) to present, **"Peeling Back the Labels: Black Women in America,"** a panel discussion exploring the lives, outlook and goals of black women in America. The forum will feature results from a groundbreaking, national survey that captured experiences and perspectives of black women, conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Date: Wednesday, February 29

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. • Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Howard University
Armour J. Blackburn University Center
2397 Sixth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20059
Street parking will be available. The campus is accessible via the Shaw-Howard U. Metro Station (Green Line) from the 7th Street/Georgia Ave. entrance. Light refreshments will be served.

Admission: FREE (Seating is limited).

To RSVP and also to submit a question for the panel, please e-mail behindtheheadlines@washpost.com.

Go to www.therootdc.com for in-depth coverage of the poll featured in this forum.



— **Moderator:** —
Michelle Singletary
Nationally Syndicated
Personal Finance
Columnist,
The Washington Post

Panelists:



Dr. Tricia Bent-Goodley
Professor, Howard University
School of Social Work



Cara V. James, Ph.D.
Director, Disparities
Policy Project,
Kaiser Family Foundation



Rahiel Tesfamariam
Founder/Editorial Director,
UrbanCusp.com



Krissah Thompson
National Staff Writer,
The Washington Post



XPP071 2x10.5

face**time**



Ali Wentworth

COMIC, AUTHOR, MANICURE HATER

As the daughter of a White House social secretary, Ali Wentworth grew up in propriety and privilege. It doesn't seem a natural jumping-off point for portraying Cher on "In Living Color." But as a comic, she's made a name for herself with appearances on Oprah Winfrey's and Jay Leno's shows, and her role as a shrink on Starz's "Head Case." Wentworth offers a glimpse into her life (including scoop on hubby George Stephanopoulos) in "Ali in Wonderland: And Other Tall Tales" (\$26, Harper).

You grew up in D.C. immersed in the world of '70s and '80s politics. How did your upbringing influence your career?

I thought it was way too serious and heavy-handed. I couldn't wait to leave and go to L.A. I was looking for humor all of the time.

It seems like your mother [Mabel Cabot, Nancy Reagan's social secretary] was a big influence.

Yes, very. She's always been very concerned with the state of the world. When I talk with her today, she'll say, "What are we going to do with the economy?" or "Did you see what China is doing?" She's passionate about people, and she's always great to her friends.

Did she give you social graces — thank-you notes, nice gifts?

Definitely, and I try to teach it to my own kids. That kind of thing is really a lost art; nobody writes handwritten thank-you notes anymore. And my mother has always been very good at getting the right gift that makes people feel special and acknowledged, and that's just instilled in me.

Your stepfather was a political journalist, and you're married to one now. How do you feel about presidential election years?

I'm used to elections taking away my husband. It's like awards season in Hollywood. It's what makes George happy, and he's passionate about it. I love to see him in his wheelhouse, so to speak.

"I'm used to elections taking away my husband. It's like awards season in Hollywood."

In the book, you say that you're "always a before, rarely an after" when talking about your look.

I just don't care enough. I have friends who care about wearing the boots that are in that season or who get monthly facials. I wish I cared more. But I feel like my time is best served in a different way. Like manicures — who can sit there for an hour? I'd go crazy.

The book makes references to lots of can't-believe-we-wore-that 1970s and '80s attire. Were you into fashion back then?

No, it didn't matter to me back then either. It was not a big thing in my family. My feeling was that you wore a polyester Danskin shirt and whatever pants you had.

After growing up in D.C. and then spending time there as an adult, do you have any favorite spots?

I love the National Gallery of Art. I love 2Amys pizza and Georgetown Cupcake. And the parks. I miss them for my kids; there are great ones in every neighborhood. And I loved Georgetown and being able to walk everywhere. It felt like a village. BETH LUBERECKI

Event Horizon | Capital Home & Garden Show

Garden displays, talks by HGTV celebs, vendors showing off remodeling supplies and a performance artist who dresses up as an orchid headline this nesting event. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly, Va.; Fri., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; \$10; Capitalhomeandgardenshow.com.

goods **lookout**

1

For Different Sorts of Dips

ONCE, AT THE behest of some Teen Vogue story, we smashed an avocado and whipped up a guacamole facial. It did indeed make our skin feel softer but, ay car-amba, the flies! Now Crabtree & Evelyn's new Avocado, Olive & Basil Lotion and potion (\$20-\$34, Crabtree-evelyn.com) collection harnesses the soothing, super-hydrating powers of the green fruit. Yes, a dunk in the bath gel smells slightly of a Cabo happy hour, but our scaly hide felt buttery after.

Grab Bag

Grab Bag is gathered and reviewed by Jennifer Barger and Erin Cunningham. Find more food, fashion, beauty and home goods at expressnightout.com/grabbag.

Bauble Itinerary

JEWELRY DESIGNER HYL A DEWITT hails from Charleston, S.C. But her gritty-meets-pretty necklaces are inspired by places much farther away: the mountains of Peru, the tombs of Egypt. Urban Chic (1626 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-338-5398) just started carrying her semiprecious stone and gold-plated pieces. Neck candy like a pink chalcedony bib (below, \$130) or a tasseled pendant (\$100) inset with aqua stones would work for a trip to Machu Picchu — or brunch in Columbia Heights.



3



2

Mr. Green Clean

IT'S THE ETERNAL kitchen quandary: You love clean dishes but hate washing them. You should also detest the soaps you use in the sink, say the creators of Goodbye Detergent, a line of no-soap-needed scrubbers (2 for \$9) that look like balls of spaghetti but are actually made of corncobs, peach pits and other eco-friendly materials. The idea: Detergents are full of nasty chemicals, but these cleaners aren't. Get them at Hill's Kitchen (713 D St. SE; 202-543-1997).

Dear Manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

This month, I'm taking a series of exams, the final portion being an oral defense of what I wrote in the written exam concerning marriage in Rome, Latin poetry, necromancy and the Goddess Hecate. It's very frightening. I want to wow my professors, but I need the confidence that can only be gotten from fabulous shoes. — BETSY

Manolo says, on the one of the hands, what else would one wear to take the exams about the world of



Rome than the handsome pair of the gladiator sandals?

But, on the other of the hands, that would be too obvious, would it not?

And yet, on the third of the hands, the professors who are doing the examining are probably the Romanophiles and so would certainly be amused by your choice of the footwear.

Although, on the four of the hands, probably not.

Still, on the fifth of the hands, the sandals of the gladiator are comfortable, yes?

Besides, on the sixth of the hands, it is February, and cold and wet, even in Rome itself.

Ultimately, on the seventh of the hands, you must project the aspect of confident seriousness, not frivolity, and so the Manolo recommends the Vivian from Kors Michael Kors, in the Taupe Kid Suede (\$109, Zappos.com). It is also available in 11 other finishes. Not exactly Roman, but when in academia, one must do as the academicians do.



Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

4 Stuffed With Love

PARENTS' JUST-HATCHED LITTLE BUNDLE OF JOY will get LOTS of annoying, chiming plastic toys from their other, less-cool friends. But new moms and dads need love, too, making a throw-pillow custom birth announcement (\$80, Uncommongoods.com) appreciated both for sentimental value (Aw, welcome baby Olive/Oliver!) and practical reasons (Aw, they'll need something to lean on during those 3 a.m. feedings!). The cotton poufs come in not-very-gender-neutral pink and blue.



5

Stash Flash

ZIPLOC BAGS do work to hold eyeliner, sunblock and other make-me-pretty stuff. But unless you're a frequent flyer, they're as dull as those TSA uniforms. Not so Beautannia's unabashedly Goth-girly new cosmetic carryalls (\$35-\$40, Space NK counter, Bloomingdale's, Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Va.; 703-556-4600). They're decked with hipster botanical prints, which also show up on the Britchick line's subtly floral bath oil (\$60), soap (\$18) and body cream (\$60).

lookout food

kernel

Spices and skillet skills make popcorn the star of your Academy Awards bash

There is an element of unpredictability to the Oscars. Will Billy Crystal fill out a tux as well as James Franco? If Meryl Streep wins, will Rooney Mara take her down with a golf club? Can a silent movie dominate a ceremony where people can't stop talking? Still, there is one guarantee: The night will go long. That's why we'd recommend serving up a few bowls of homemade gourmet popcorn before the epic telecast begins.

For a top pop, start with killer kernels. Corporate chef Joe Goetze at Founding Farmers (1924 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; 202-822-8783) uses so-called "mushroom" popcorn in his restaurant's rotating menu of popcorn flavors (salt and vinegar; barbecue spice; ranch). The kernels puff up to twice the size of your average Orville Redenbacher ones. The bigger, more toothsome variety is sold at gourmet supermarkets such as Wegmans and Whole Foods, or online at sites such as Popcorncounty.com.

To make the best bowl of corn, use a flat-bottomed pan or skillet with a tight-fitting lid (sorry, microwave!). Woks and other curved cookware don't work well, because the kernels clump

together at the bottom and heat doesn't distribute evenly.

No matter what sort of strange butter substitutes you've tasted at the movies, at home, your popcorn should use a good oil. Westend Bistro's (1190 22 St. NW; 202-974-4900) chef de cuisine, Joe Palma, who features a well-loved truffled popcorn on his bar bites menu, prefers canola or peanut oil, because they have high smoke points. "The hotter you can get your oil, the quicker the kernels are going to pop," he says. "That way they soak up less oil and don't get soggy." Coconut, sunflower or pumpkin seed oil are also good choices.

Whichever one you choose, you need only one or two tablespoons of it. Make sure the bottom of your pan is thinly coated before you turn

the burner to a medium-high heat. Hannah Miles, author of "Popcorn Treats" (\$16, Ryland Peters & Small), recommends putting a few kernels in while the oil is still cold. When they blossom with a bang, you know you've hit the right temperature for top popping.

Once you're primed to pop, put in about 1/2 cup of kernels (serves two to four) and put the lid on lock-down. Give the pan a quick shake to coat the kernels with oil, then shake it every 30 seconds to circulate the contents. Since you can't see what you're cooking, perk up your ears. First the stuff will pop slowly, then there will be an intense burst of activity, and then it will start to peter off. Take your pan off the heat when it gets down to five seconds between pops. "But leave the lid on for another minute or so, because some will still pop," Miles says. "You don't want them firing off around the kitchen."

Then it's time to season your popcorn. The first addition should always be freshly melted salted butter (about 1/3 cup), which helps other ingredients stick. From there you can go sweet or a savory, or kettle corn style (both).

Miles likes bringing together several ingredients so you don't

Pop Secrets

When you feel so slothful that you barely have the energy to put on your Forever Lazy onesie and hit the couch, these treats will give you a popcorn fix without much fuss.

PorkKorn

Bayou Bakery (\$4, 1515 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington; 703-243-2410) There's an old American saying: "Everything goes better with bacon." To ensure you get your daily dose of swine, chef-owner David Guas created this sweet-savory caramel popcorn laced with pieces of porker, peanuts and a dash of cayenne.



Wisdom



get a one-note snack. Her Paprika Smoky Bacon Popcorn (see sidebar) includes porky pieces, a dusting of paprika, sharp shredded cheddar and ground black pepper, while her Raspberry and White Chocolate Popcorn (see recipe sidebar) incorporates tangy raspberry powder, sweet chocolate chips and a dash of aromatic vanilla extract.

Or you can keep it super-simple. For maximum taste with minimum of effort, Amanda McClements of Metrocurean (Metrocurean.com) recommends sprinkling on some nutritional yeast flakes, which are available at Whole Foods or online at Amazon.com. “It has this very savory, umami flavor,” she says. “It tastes like a cross between soy and Parmesan cheese.”

Her other go-to toppings when she’s feeling lazy include a smattering of truffle salt (“a little goes a very long way”), a drizzle of soy sauce or a shower of pre-mixed powdered meat rub. No matter how you top your pop though, it’s guaranteed to be a winner, no matter how late your party runs.

NEVIN MARTELL



PAPRIKA SMOKY BACON POPCORN

- ▶ 1/2 cup **crispy smoked bacon pieces/real bacon bits**
- ▶ 1-2 tablespoons **sunflower or vegetable oil**
- ▶ 1/3 cup **popcorn kernels**
- ▶ 5 tablespoons **butter**
- ▶ 2 teaspoons **smoked Spanish paprika (pimentón)**
- ▶ **freshly ground black pepper**
- ▶ 1/3 cup **grated cheddar cheese, to serve (optional)**

Makes One Large Bowl

In a food processor, blitz the crispy smoked bacon pieces/real bacon bits to a fine powder and set aside. Follow the advice in the story to pop the popcorn. Melt the butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Pour over the warm popcorn. Sprinkle on bacon powder and paprika, and stir well to evenly coat. Season to taste with black pepper. Add the cheese, if using, while the popcorn is still warm. Serve warm or cold.

RASPBERRY AND WHITE CHOCOLATE POPCORN

- ▶ 1-2 tablespoons **sunflower or vegetable oil**
- ▶ 1/3 cup **popcorn kernels**
- ▶ 1/2 tablespoons **butter**
- ▶ 1 teaspoon **vanilla extract**
- ▶ 2 tablespoons **freeze-dried raspberry powder ***
- ▶ 1/2 cup **white chocolate chips**

Makes One Large Bowl

Follow the advice in the story to pop the popcorn. For the topping, melt the butter in a small saucepan and add the vanilla extract. Pour the butter over the popcorn and stir well until evenly coated. Sprinkle over the raspberry powder and stir in the white chocolate chips while the popcorn is still warm so that the chocolate melts into the popcorn. This popcorn can be eaten warm or cold.

* Freeze-dried raspberry powder is available from health food shops and online. Or, to make your own, dry raspberries in an oven set to a very low temperature for about six to eight hours. Then pulse them to a fine powder in a blender.



Popcorn Lovers Collection

(\$21, Urbanaccents.com) This kit includes supplies for gourmet popcorn: kernels, powdered toppings (sweet and salty kettlecorn; white cheddar; dill pickle) and popcorn boxes. If you're feeling especially lethargic, you can always microwave a bag of Orville Redenbacher and shake on one of the seasonings.



Buttered Popcorn Jelly Beans

(\$8.99, Jellybelly.com) You don't even need to put a bag in the microwave and press a button to enjoy these yellow and ivory swirled jelly beans, which taste like a slightly sweeter version of movie popcorn without that greasy residue you know from the multiplex.



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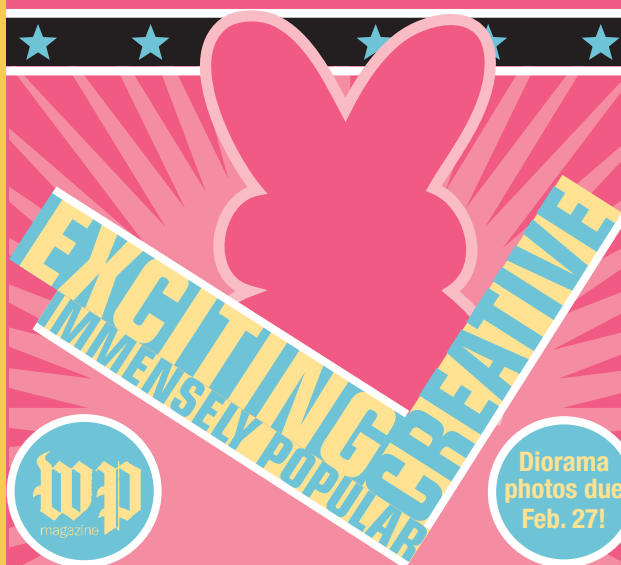
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- Take photos of your diorama from several angles. Then, go to washingtonpost.com/peeps to upload no more than two photos. Your pictures must be in jpeg format. You will also be asked to provide:
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 - The names, ages and home towns of anybody who contributed to the diorama.
 - A phone number and e-mail address (not for publication).
 - The title of your diorama and a blurb about its creation or significance.
- Photo submissions are due by Monday, Feb. 27, at 11:59 p.m., but keep your masterpiece intact after submission.
- We'll choose five finalists based on originality and execution. Those dioramas will be picked up via courier and professionally photographed.
- The grand-prize winner will receive a \$100 American Express gift check and a Peeps prize pack courtesy of Peeps & Company. Four runners-up will each receive a \$50 American Express gift check and a Peeps prize pack.

Photos of the semi-finalists, finalists and winner will appear in The Washington Post Magazine on Sunday, April 1.

For inspiration, view last year's finalists at www.washingtonpost.com/peeps

No purchase necessary. Contest is open to anyone in the United States, but the five finalists must be residents of the District of Columbia, Maryland or Virginia. Contestants must be 13 years of age or older to enter. If you are under 13, please have a parent, guardian or teacher submit your entry. One entry per person. Employees of The Washington Post or their immediate families are not eligible to enter.

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Key Relationships:

Why real estate agents can make or break your house hunt or sale **E5**



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Blaise Warren, left, and Sarah Hawkins relax on the roof of the Clara Barton condo building in Penn Quarter. Warren proposed to Hawkins there last year.

Prime Perks, Special Touches

Buildings lure residents with valuable amenities

Trends

Everyone knows the feeling: It's the end of a long day and all you want to do is come home, have the valet park your car, put your feet up, and call your building's masseuse for an evening spa treatment.

OK, maybe that doesn't sound like your life — but it is a reality for some lucky people.

With steep competition in the local real estate market, new condo and apartment buildings are luring residents in with perks and amenities — the more indulgent, the better. Newer high-rises include features such as pools, rooftop decks, manicured courtyards, high-end gyms and plush party rooms to give prospective buyers the feeling of a full-service community in the city.

High-end condos

At the high end of the luxury spectrum is Arlington's Turnberry Tower (1881 N. Nash St., Arlington; 703-243-3000) where a concierge is available free of charge to help residents make restaurant reservations, book air travel or plan parties in either the on-site party room or the 12-seat movie theater. The building's health club has a spacious studio for Pilates, Zumba and yoga classes, as well as an indoor pool, a hot tub and an outdoor sunning terrace. The 26-story high-rise was completed in 2010.

CONTINUED ON **E2**

digs

Enticing Extras

Continued from page E1

Homeowners can opt to have any of the health club's spa treatments performed in their condos. A one-hour massage costs \$90, whether you choose to have it in the health club or in the privacy of your own home. Luckily, every unit's marble-tiled bathroom is large enough to accommodate the masseuse's table, along with scented candles and oils.

"They transform the bathroom into a little spa," said Anne Blakeman, a member of Turnberry's sales team.

Blakeman said top-tier amenities help her sell condos, even with steep price tags. The one-, two- and three-bedroom units that are still available for sale at Turnberry Tower range from \$750,000 to \$4.5 million. "With the price range of the condos we sell, everybody's looking for a full-service amenities package," she said.

Turnberry's amenity fees are rolled into condo association fees, which run from \$600 a month for a one-bedroom apartment up to \$1,300 a month for penthouse condos.

In Foggy Bottom, the Residence at 22West (1177 22nd St. NW; 202-333-3313) has a concierge to help homeowners with tasks such as making restaurant reservations. A porter is on hand to run errands, including picking up prescriptions and dropping off dry-cleaning. "Basically anything you need they can pretty much facilitate for you," said Tyler Jeffrey, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker's Dupont office who sells units in 22West and in Turnberry Tower.

Prices for one-bedroom condos at 22West, which was completed in 2008, start around \$750,000. Condo association fees are higher than at other buildings — about a dollar per square foot of individual living space — because the building includes charges for electricity, Internet and 300 cable channels. Bundling bills is yet another service available. "The concept for this building is that people might have homes elsewhere so they don't



Residents of Turnberry Tower in Arlington can entertain guests in the social room. A concierge is available to help residents plan parties there or elsewhere.

"It really emphasized how great a deal it was. Normally for the price you get a room, and that's about it."

— NATALIE KALAS, WHO LIVES IN THE AXIOM AT CAPITOL YARDS, ON THE BUILDING'S MANY AMENITIES. KALAS OFTEN GRILLS ON THE BUILDING'S ROOFTOP DECK, BELOW.



The roof of the Axiom at Capitol Yards in Southeast features a pool, grills, tables for eating, cabanas for lounging and a view of the Washington Monument.

want different sets of bills in different cities," said Mei-Mei Venners, a broker at 22West.

Mid-range condos

For those who can't (yet) afford luxury spots, there are plenty of amenities to be found at lower prices.

Sarah Hawkins said her top priority when buying a condo was location. The 30-year-old attorney wanted to be able to walk to her law firm and to be a part of the vibrant downtown community. The Clara Barton (616 E St. NW; 202-347-0803), built in 2004 in Penn Quarter, fulfilled those needs, but its extra perks, including a 24-hour doorman, made her confident it was the place for her. "The amenities become a tipping point once you have your other categories taken care of," Hawkins said.

In addition to its security fea-

tures, the Clara Barton has a sprawling rooftop deck with a pool, and gas grills. A small, indoor prep kitchen on the roof allows easy access to grab marinade from the fridge or to wash dishes. Residents have free access to computers in the building's business center, a large conference room and a movie theater with 12 plush leather chairs. There's also a party room residents can use for free at any time (reserving it for exclusive use costs extra).

Amenities like these come at a cost for developers, who pay more to install them, but condo sellers say they're worth it in the long run.

The Clara Barton's property manager, Alberto Ramirez-De-Arellano, said it's unlikely the building would have sold out as quickly in the competitive Penn Quarter area without its extra perks. "When you want to

compete with other condos in the area, our amenities by far close the deal for everyone," he said.

Apartments

When Natalie Kalas, 22, went searching for her first apartment after graduating from American University, she was looking for the basics: the right location and the right price. She and her roommate found the Axiom at Capitol Yards (100 I St. SE; 866-658-2490) and were wowed by the 2008 building's free fitness center, business center and courtyard. They especially loved the rooftop deck, which has a pool, grills, dining areas and a panoramic view of the city. "We really got more bang for our buck," Kalas said.

Two-bedrooms units like theirs start at about \$2,300 a month (stu-

dios start at \$1,595 per month, one-bedrooms at \$1,965), and the Axiom offers six weeks free for signing a 13-month lease.

Although Kalas' job at an accounting company keeps her from grilling on the roof as often as she'd like, she has a new appreciation for the other perks of living in a high-rise, including the convenience of the free English muffins and pastries for breakfast and Starbucks coffee that the Axiom provides every weekday morning.

"It really emphasized how great a deal it was," Kalas says. "Normally for the price you get a room, and that's about it. It's just added value."

The Axiom charges a one-time \$100 administrative fee when renters sign leases, says Jen Paige, a

property manager who oversees the Axiom. Other apartment buildings charge an annual fee per resident or per apartment.

Whether in an apartment or a condo, many residents say the fees are worth it.

"The level of services are high, so you're getting what you pay for," Hawkins says. Her condo's rooftop deck turned out to be the scene of some of the most important moments of her life.

Two years ago, she invited Blaise Warren up to her rooftop deck for beers — their first date. Less than a year later, he proposed in the same spot.

"He took me up at sunset last May," she remembers. They'll be married in March and live together at the Clara Barton.

BETH MARLOWE (EXPRESS)



Sarah Hawkins and Blaise Warren relax in the Clara Barton's movie theater, which has an overhead projector, big screen and 12 cushy seats for residents and guests.

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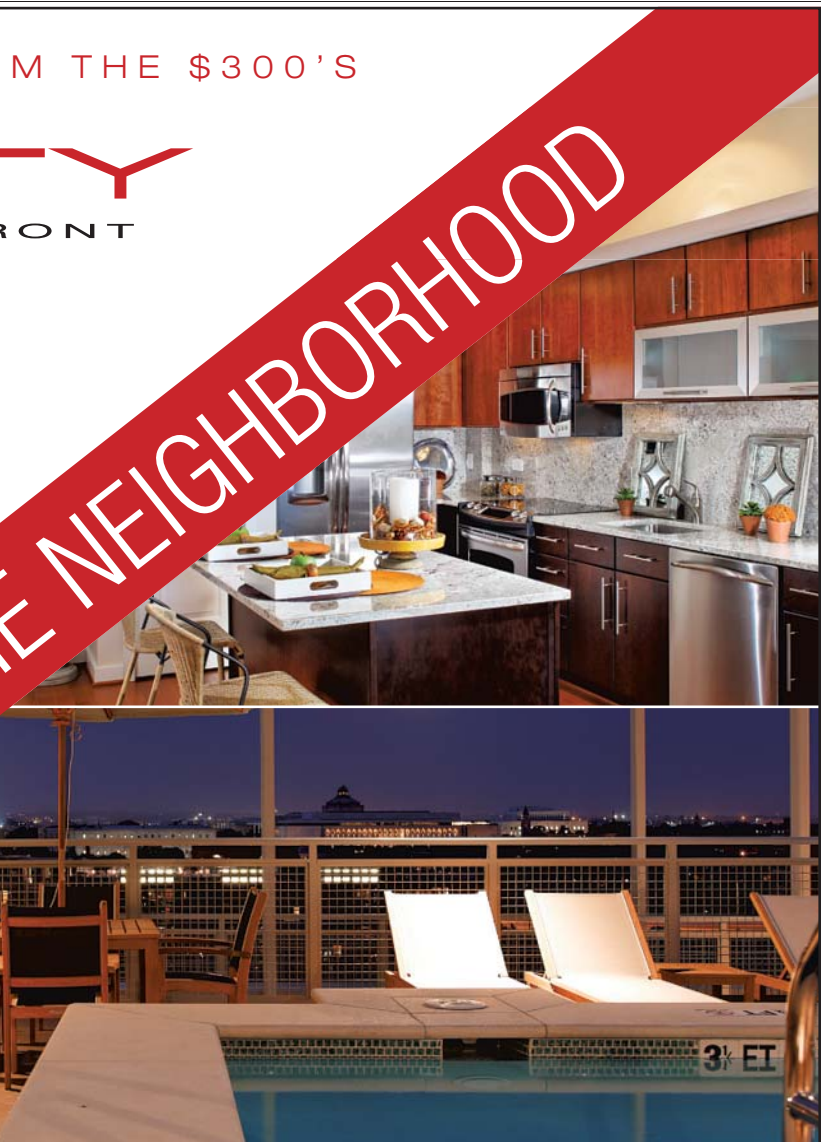
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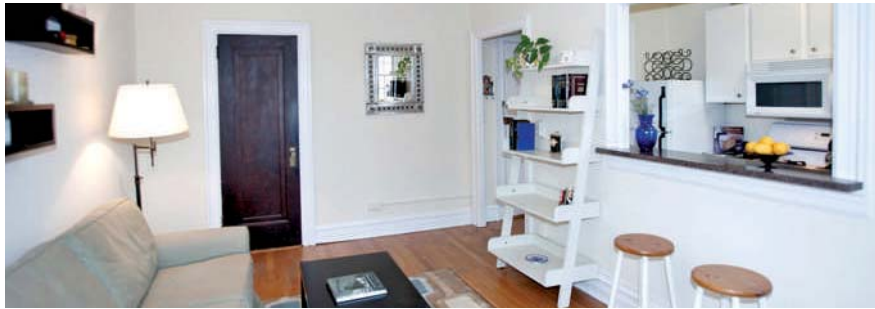
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COURTESY LONG AND FOSTER

\$289,000 Up a rickety elevator on the fifth and highest floor lies this charming corner apartment, which exudes an understated, 1920s character. Original hardwood floors and moldings, large south- and east-facing windows with latticework, and dark wooden doors are ideal for a first-time buyer with shabby-chic or affordable-modern decor. A condo fee of \$208 per month for this 519-square-foot apartment gets you a roof deck overlooking Rock Creek Parkway (the stairs are just outside the unit's door) and access to the building's communal laundry room. (LISTED BY LONG AND FOSTER)

Southwest Condo: 1435 4th St. SW #B710



COURTESY RANDALL HAGNER

\$300,000 The painting-like view from this 920-square-foot unit overlooking Fort McNair and the Washington Channel will provide hours of gazing, whether from the balcony or indoors; the prominent smokestack that rises from the Army post's red-brick buildings gives the view something of a New England factory-town feel. A condo fee of \$904 per month gets buyers a parking space, outdoor pool, communal laundry room and channel-front park area. A renovated kitchen with environmentally friendly Kirei Board cabinets, a wine cooler and ample closet space only sweeten the deal. (LISTED BY RANDALL HAGNER) BECCA MILFELD

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Real Estate

Noelle Dorment and her husband, Mike, didn't drive only themselves crazy when they were looking for their dream house in Kensington's Chevy Chase View neighborhood. They took their real estate agent along with them.

"We weren't the easiest people to work with, that's for sure," says Noelle Dorment, 40, director of two autism waiver programs. She and her husband, 39 — vice president at Worcester Eisenbrandt, a historic-building restoration firm — were very specific in their requirements, right down to yard size (big, on a corner lot) and finishes (high-end). During their yearlong search, the former Silver Spring residents looked at about 20 houses and asked their agent, Dee Murphy of Coldwell Banker in Vienna, to write five offers, which take about an hour each to pen. (The Dorments either changed their minds or were outbid on four of them.)

Dorment attributes their eventual success with their fifth bid — they bought a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house in July 2010 to which they're adding two bedrooms and bathrooms — to Murphy's patience and personality. "She was detail-oriented and knew how to help us weed through it all," says Dorment (who found Murphy through a friend's recommendation). "She could be humorous when we needed it."

Demeanor is a huge part of what makes an agent great (or awful), but with more than 9,000 Realtors in the D.C. metro area, according to the Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors (Gcaar.com), lots

of other factors — both personal and professional — come into play. Besides obvious requirements such as good communication skills and an encyclopedic knowledge of the area, experts cite self-motivation, honesty and tech savvy as the top attributes to look for in an agent.

"There isn't just one key format for a successful real estate agent," says Donna Evers, who's worked in D.C. real estate for 36 years and founded the boutique company Evers and Co. Real Estate (Eversco.com) in 1985. When she's looking to add to her team of 100, she's drawn first to someone who's driven, because although agents work for a company, they're independent contractors, not employees.

"Would you trust them enough to give them the keys to your house?"

— JILL MALLOY, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AT LONG AND FOSTER REAL ESTATE'S OFFICE IN CALVERTON, MD., SUGGESTING A QUESTION THAT PROSPECTIVE BUYERS SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES BEFORE CHOOSING A REAL ESTATE AGENT.

"Being a real estate agent is like putting your sign out and being in business for yourself. You really are an entrepreneur," Evers says. "Even if you get a lot of support from your company and you have a tremendous network of people you know, you still have to convince everybody to use you."

And the allure of a deal can make it tough to determine who's being straightforward, says Dewita Soeharjono, who runs the Metro DC Homes blog (Metrodchomes.typepad.com). "Instead of telling the truth to the seller that it's just not possible to sell their home at the price they wanted, agents are willing to take the deal" for the sake of getting wider name recognition, she writes in an email.



Noelle Dorment, left, and her husband, Mike, center, relied on their real estate agent, Dee Murphy of Coldwell Banker, to help them find their three-bedroom house.

As a Weichert agent, Soeharjono once had a seller who believed his home would sell for \$700,000, but the market had declined, and although Soeharjono knew he wouldn't get it, she took the job on to circulate her name to other agents and prospective customers. The house never sold. "As far as business concern, this wasn't a good move," she wrote.

Making sure someone is not self-serving is "the most difficult thing to distinguish because there are Realtors with great personalities that can fool you," says Marc Fleisher, who has 33 years of real estate experience in the D.C. area, has sold \$2.5 billion in property, and has held the title of No. 1 Long and Foster top producer nationwide in residential sales for the past 15

Continued on page E6

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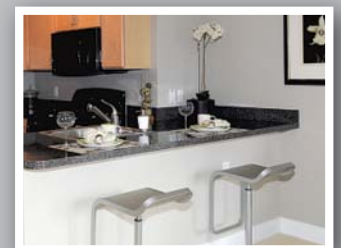


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Right Realtor

Continued from page E5

years. Look for someone who is candid about whether it's the right time to sell or what price you can realistically expect to pay in a cer-

tain neighborhood, Fleisher says. "It's really up to the consumer to ask the questions," he adds.

Then, turn the questions to yourself, recommends Jill Malloy, director of training at Long and Foster's Calverton, Md., office.

"Would you get in the car with that person and would you trust them enough to give them the keys to your house?" Malloy says. "Basically, in real estate, what you're doing is looking out for the best interest of the client, and either you care

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KEVIN DIETSCH

Realtor Dee Murphy says a personality match is a key part of finding the right agent.

enough to do it, or you don't."

Do your research by calling the local board of Realtors or the manager at a neighborhood company to ask who the top agents are. A quick Google search can reveal a lot about an agent, too, such as which neighborhoods they specialize in and their employment history.

The Internet is a common starting point for many buyers. Last year, 40 percent of buyers first learned online about the home they bought, while 35 percent were introduced to it by a real estate agent, according to a 2011 survey by the National Association of Realtors (Realtor.org). Still, 91 percent who searched online purchased through an agent in person.

A personal touch keeps agents crucial to the buying and selling processes, says Carol Poe, a Realtor who works out of the Waldorf, Md., Long & Foster office. "People can look on the Internet and find out what's on sale themselves," she says. "It's your training and your level of understanding of the industry and your excitement and enthusiasm and level of commitment to that client that makes the difference."

The Internet has increased the stakes for agents, says Jon Heithaus, chief marketing officer at Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, which runs the

Good to Know

Real estate agents and Realtors are licensed to sell real estate, but a Realtor is a member of the National Association of Realtors.

country's largest real estate listing service and monitors market trends. "The stronger the Internet gets," he says, "the more it becomes essential for a really savvy, connected, networked real estate agent to be the definitive local expert."

Agents' use of online tools is more important now than the certifications they have, Heithaus adds.

The agent-customer relationship requires close interactions, including chats about personal finances, over several weeks or even years. If either party feels uncomfortable, that can undermine a deal, regardless of how good an agent looks on paper.

"You have to just match personalities," Murphy says. "Dealing with someone like Mike [Dormant], he tells me to write a contract and I write a contract, and then the next day he decides, 'That's not the house for us.' You need to have a relationship with someone where you're not going to strangle them if they do that to you."

STEPHANIE KANOWITZ

digs

Furnishing Inspiration

Arlington blogger Christine Bensten brings out the beauty in beat-up antiques

Decor

In a large yet cozy house in North Arlington, Christen Bensten has a lot going on.

Between carpools and ballet classes for three children under the age of 5, Bensten is painting old furniture, selling it online and blogging about it all as fast as she can. "I always wanted to be a writer," she says. She never dreamed she would be writing about furniture rescue through a blog called Blue Egg Brown Nest.

It all started because the Benstens needed a large nest. Two years ago, after tearing down a one-story brick ranch house, they built a cedar-shingle house with an open floor plan and six bedrooms. Finally, there was room for Bensten and her husband, Brent, and their three children, three cats and a Labrador. But Bensten says she had no budget for furniture after the costly demolition, design and construction.

She experimented with painting techniques that could take a beat-up chest or table with good bones and turn it into something plucked from Provence. She first used milk paint, a modern version of the ancient formula of milk and pigment that produces a finish that mellows with time. She eventually settled on a line of British chalk paints by Annie Sloan. The durable chalk paint requires no pre-sanding and has a creamy finish. (It has no relation to chalkboard paint.) "It's a fresh yet antique look," Bensten says.

Using several coats of chalk paint, special waxes and a light sanding at the end, she gave new life to discarded vanities and end tables. She sees the resulting pati-



Arlington resident Christen Bensten's blog, Blue Egg Brown Nest, details her furniture rehab techniques.

na, and her general decorating style, as part French farmhouse, part American vintage.

"I was amazed how I could change the look of a grungy old piece into something practical and beautiful," says Christen, 34.

Each of her pieces is unique. "You can't get that look at Crate and Barrel or Pottery Barn," Christen says. She prices to sell, she says, which means a dresser costs about \$350 and a chair goes for \$65. While she builds her business, she has assembled a stylish look for her own house in a mostly neutral palette: white slipcovered sofas, sisal rugs and burlap pillows.

Now she paints during nap time and after the kids have gone to bed. In the evening, she searches for accessories online. The UPS delivery truck is always dropping something off.

"Every day I come home and something is changed," Brent Bensten says. The kids have gotten used to the price tags hanging from their furniture. They think it's normal that things come and go. "I sold my china cabinet in the dining room recently," Bensten says.

They all waved as it went off to its new home. **JURA KONCIUS**
(THE WASHINGTON POST)

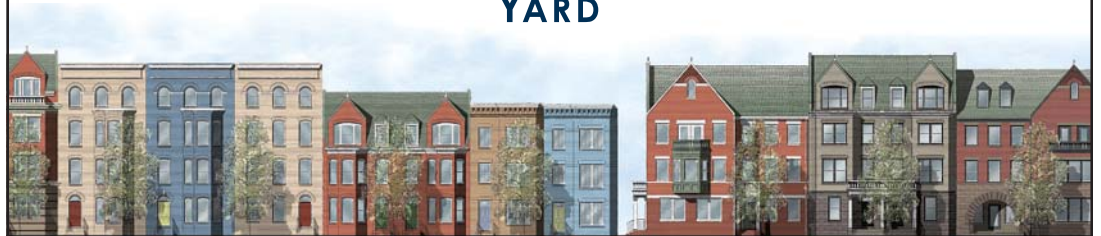


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The Reelist**Movie Night for All**

So the Oscars are Sunday, which means I will again wonder why I get paid to write about movies when I am truly terrible at predicting the winners.

But I do love the Academy Awards — I love seeing what people are wearing, I love the Montage of the



By Kristen
Page-Kirby

Dead, and I love that my phone rattles incessantly with text messages from friends who are old like me and therefore can't go to Oscar parties because it's a school night.

There are a lot of reasons to dislike the Academy Awards — most of the voters are (surprise!) old white men, the ceremony is always too long, and judging things like acting and directing is about as subjective as it can get. But, for one evening, a lot of the country is thinking critically about movies — everyone has an opinion on what makes a good film, what goes into a good performance, and whose makeup is the best. I like that, because it reminds me that most moviegoers DO have the capacity to be thoughtful, which is something I forget when "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" is the week's top movie at the box office.

Yes, the Oscars are silly and overblown and ultimately unimportant — but, for a night, everyone takes a moment to argue about and ultimately celebrate a unique art form — one that finds room to recognize even "Transformers."



Read Kristen's previous columns at:
Expressnightout.com/thereelist



Raves to Rants

The danger in predicting anything, especially horse races and awards shows, is balancing what you want to happen with what you think will happen. This year's Oscar race seems to be set as everyone just waits for "The Artist" to roll over everyone — which is probably the right thing. But at some point the Academy will mess it up. Here's the scale weighing what the voters will get right and their inevitable mistakes. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Best Supporting Actor

CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER, "BEGINNERS"
This indie about a man (Plummer) who comes out late in life was adorably quirky, and Plummer's performance gave it a depth it would have otherwise lacked. Also, if he wins, he might sing "Edelweiss" during his speech.

**ALL
RIGHT!**



OK!

Best Director

MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS, "THE ARTIST"
This award could go to Martin Scorsese for "Hugo," his outstanding it's-a-children's-film-no-just-kidding, but the director of the best picture typically takes home the directing award.

Our movie expert thinks she knows who's going to win at the Oscars — whether she wants them to or not



YAY!

Best Picture

"THE ARTIST"
It's rare when the film that takes home the top trophy is actually the best film of the year, and the little silent film that could is set to rightfully claim its prize.

Best Actress

MERYL STREEP, "THE IRON LADY."
"The Help" had problems, but Viola Davis' performance wasn't one of them. Streep is, surprisingly, a perennial loser when it comes to the Oscar and seems due. Which is a shame, because Davis should take it for one of the most devastating and authentic performances ever committed to film.



RAGE!


Best Supporting Actress

OCTAVIA SPENCER, "THE HELP"
We call this Kim Basinger Syndrome — the actress won for 1997's "L.A. Confidential," we suspect, because the Academy wanted to recognize an excellent film but, with a "Titanic" sweep, had no place else to do it. "The Help" is no "L.A. Confidential," but people want it to take home something, and this will be it — leaving Melissa McCarthy, who should take it, the bridesmaid.

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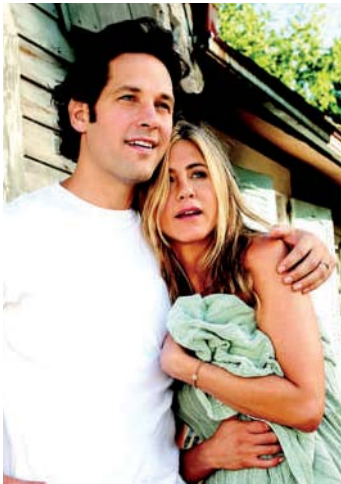
A Utopian Parody

Two city slickers test their boundaries in the film 'Wanderlust'

Film

Paul Rudd delivers moments of inspired lunacy in "Wanderlust," a shambling mix of cheap laughs and genuinely funny set pieces from writer-director David Wain. Fans of Wain and Rudd's earlier collaboration "Role Models" (and there are more than a few of us) have been eagerly anticipating the return of their raunchy but sweet comic stylings. Where "Wanderlust" hews more to clichés and lazy stereotypes about the subculture it's lampooning — in this case, a latter-day hippie commune — it bears the same giddy rhythms and half-baked humanism.

Rudd plays George, a Manhattan corporate drone who, as "Wanderlust" opens, is buying a West



Paul Rudd, left, and Jennifer Aniston try to trade their business suits for their birthday suits in "Wanderlust."

Village apartment with his wife, Linda (Jennifer Aniston). Soon after, George loses his job and Linda's documentary about penguins isn't picked up by HBO, and they're forced to move to Atlanta to sponge off

Wanderlust (R)

- **Director:** David Wain
- **Stars:** Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd and Malin Akerman
- **In a Nutshell:** An uptight fish out of water and his wife find their bliss among a subculture colony.
- **For Fans Of:** "The Change-Up," "Knocked Up," "Role Models"

George's obnoxious brother Rick and his self-medicating wife.

On the way, the couple stops at Elysium, a rustic colony of drop-outs and groovers that pulls George and Linda into living in a farm house with no discernible boundaries, architectural or sexual.

"Wanderlust" does little to prove that Aniston's a star more suited to TV rather than the big screen. As for Rudd, he still has charm to burn, even playing a type he's long since outgrown. ANN HORNADAY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Harrelson Shines As Rogue Officer

Film

Woody Harrelson brings the heat in "Rampart," a nasty L.A.-noir character study.

The problem is that writer and director Oren Moverman ("The Messenger") and co-screenwriter James Ellroy don't bring much light to Dave Brown, the corrupt Los Angeles cop Harrelson channels with such toxic intensity. Brown is a bitter, tiresomely self-destructive Johnny One-Note, so busy wallowing in his own racism, misogyny and substance abuse that he can barely make time for his equally passionate commitment to self-pity.

In fact, Dave — whose peers jokingly call him "Date Rape,"

Rampart (R)

- **Director:** Oren Moverman
- **Stars:** Woody Harrelson, Ben Foster and Sigourney Weaver
- **In a Nutshell:** A veteran police officer struggles for his own survival with complicated results.

in honor of his killing a serial rapist — is such a wearyingly contemptuous and contemptible character that it's difficult to explain why viewers would want to spend more than a minute with him. That "Rampart" is watchable at all is due to Harrelson, who appears in every scene and compels attention like a human billy club.

ANN HORNADAY (TWP)

Film



War Games

Military reality and video-game fantasy shake hands and come out fighting in "Act of Valor," which stars Navy SEALs. Conceived as a recruitment film, the filmmakers got unprecedented access to guns, choppers, submarines and other expensive gear. Like most recent action movies, it delivers a chaotic, you-are-there sensation. Exactly what's happening, however, can be hard to follow.

MARK JENKINS (TWP)

entertainment **lookout**

Now Playing

ALBERT NOBBS (R, 113 minutes) A delicate, closely observed chamber piece, this affecting portrait of longing, lying and leading double lives in 19th-century Ireland sneaks up on the audience with the quiet discretion of the enigmatic protagonist at its center. And, like him, it contains multitudes beneath its prim surface. "Him"? Albert Nobbs — who is, after all, played by Glenn Close — and is really a woman who long ago assumed a man's identity to survive and to this day doesn't know exactly who he/she is. ANN HORNADAY.

CHRONICLE (PG-13, 83 minutes) Movies that purport to be constructed from found footage usually do so to cloak a flimsy premise. That's not the issue with "Chronicle," in which a pretty good idea for a sci-fi thriller is undermined by hastiness. The amateur cameraman is



Tom Hardy and Christopher Pine have more chemistry with each other than with Reese Witherspoon, who they are chasing in the lackluster "This Means War."

Andrew, a Seattle-area high-schooler who is bullied. Andrew's closest thing to a friend is his cousin Matt. One night, the two attend a rave, where they encounter Matt's longtime crush, later to serve as the movie's damsel in distress. The guys wander off with Matt's pal Steve. In a development any superhero-origin buff will recognize, the boys crawl into a sinkhole

and find a weird substance that alters them. They develop superpowers, and Andrew, the weakest of the three, becomes the strongest. Ultimately, "Chronicle" can't finesse the essential problem of the found-footage genre: When faced with a potentially lethal threat, nobody's first instinct is to hit "record." MARK JENKINS

Continued on page 22

FROM THE WRITER OF 'L.A. CONFIDENTIAL' AND THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE MESSENGER'

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Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

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Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly

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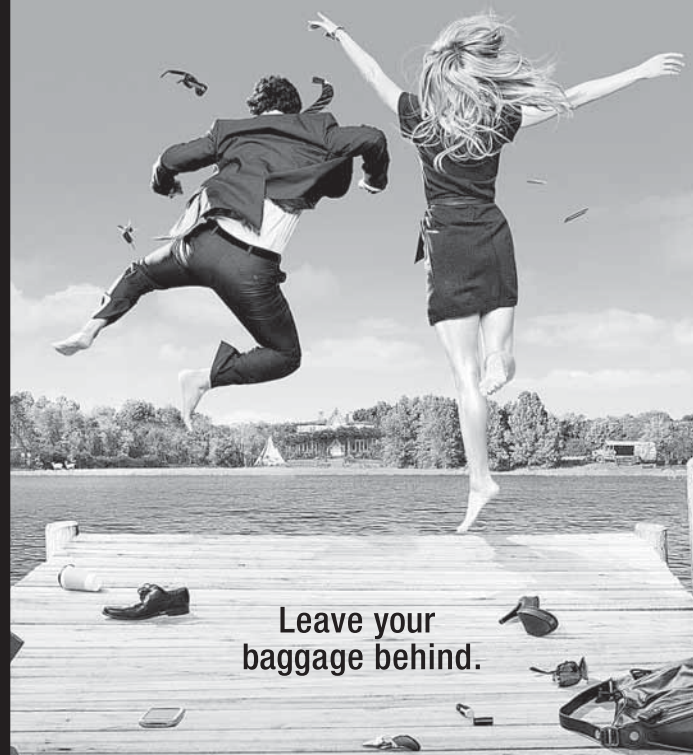
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NowPlaying

Continued from page 21

CORIOLANUS (R, 122 minutes) Ralph Fiennes invests Shakespeare's play "Coriolanus" with ferocity and fresh vigor in his film of the same name, which transposes the story of an ancient Roman

general to the present day with ease and uncanny relevance at a time when patricians and plebes are duking it out in public opinion, when demonstrators are being tear-gassed on the streets of Athens, and American voters are subjected to a daily showcase of political conniving and rhetorical excess. A.H. **GHOST RIDER: SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE** (PG-13, 95 minutes) A goofy, gonzo thrill

ride, "Vengeance" is a bad movie sequel — a bad movie that's almost a great bad movie. It's still a profoundly silly mash-up of comic book and quasi-religious "prophecy" about a motorcyclist who sold his soul to the devil, who transforms into a flaming avenger hurtling out of hell when the need arises. But this time around, Nicolas Cage and everybody else on board are in on the joke. (AP)

THE GREY (R, 117 minutes) Within its first several minutes, Joe Carnahan's man-against-nature thriller takes on contours and shadings far more sophisticated than the usual pulp programmer. Liam Neeson plays John Ottway, a sharpshooter who works for an oil company in Alaska keeping gray wolves and other predators at bay. Soon Ottway and his fellow he-men are on a plane bound for

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civilization. The plane won't make it, leaving Ottway and six others marooned in the middle of a blank, icy wasteland with subzero winds, punishing snowstorms and packs of hungry wolves. Such pure, elemental motivations and obstacles could easily provide the makings of a brutish but viscerally effective B-movie, but Carnahan aspires to something more, and he largely achieves it. Even with its requisite amount of hokum, though, "The Grey" executes its battle of the alpha males with toughness, efficiency and even artistry. A.H.

JOURNEY 2: THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (PG, 94 minutes) Managing to make classic 19th-century adventure yarns feel as wondrous and exotic as a Hallmark Channel special, "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson) sincerely tries to pay homage to the likes of Jules Verne and Robert Louis Stevenson but is too contaminated by today's tame sensibilities to make it fly. **JOHN DEFORE**

SAFE HOUSE (R, 115 minutes) Denzel Washington has begun to carve out a niche as the grumpy or morally compromised foil to young, gravitas-seeking white actors. His charisma menaced Ethan Hawke in "Training Day" and taunted Chris Pine in "Unstoppable," allowing both actors to look more impressive simply by surviving the encounter. Entering "Safe House," Ryan Reynolds needs that chance to prove himself. Reynolds plays Matt Weston, a CIA newbie assigned to man a rarely used Cape Town facility. Every day he clocks in, checks the supplies and waits to see if he'll finally get something to do. And then he does: Amid much excitement, a squad of tough agents arrives to interrogate Washington's Tobin Frost, a top spy who went rogue nine years ago and has been selling America's secrets ever since. When the safe house is attacked by baddies bent on killing Frost, Weston escapes with him, trying to keep his prisoner alive on the streets until a presumably safer new hideout can be arranged. In the field, Frost does get precious moments to play with Weston's head, but the film doesn't allow Reynolds enough time to move through wide-eyed self-doubt to find the intelligence his character presumably possesses. A.H.

A SEPARATION (R, 123 minutes) Asghar Farhadi's domestic drama takes hold from its first moments and doesn't let go even long after the lights have come on. As "A Separation" opens, Nader and

Simin address the camera as a judge is adjudicating their pending divorce. Simin is seeking a divorce from Nader, who has refused to move out of Iran with her and their 11-year-old daughter, Termeh. Nader wants to stay home to take care of his elderly father, who's suffering from Alzheimer's. When Simin's request for a divorce is refused and she leaves the house to stay with her parents, Nader hires a

nurse named Razieh to look after his father. But Razieh is an observant, orthodox Muslim whose religious strictures and patriarchal tradition are at odds with the demands of her new job. As a seamless, seemingly effortless document, "A Separation" doesn't resemble a film much as a slice of life caught on the fly, with all of the spontaneity, surprise and contradiction that real life entails. A.H.

THIS MEANS WAR (PG-13, 96 minutes) This romantic action comedy stars Reese Witherspoon as a woman trying to choose between two handsome suitors. But as this sloppy, scattered, utterly synthetic piece of Hollywood widgetry unspools, it becomes increasingly clear that the romantic tension at play exists mostly between the men in question, played by Chris Pine and Tom Hardy. The fact that

"This Means War" is as graceless, lazy and visually incoherent as it is can be laid squarely at the feet of its director, McG. His career at least provides a valuable reminder that the word "hack" didn't always refer to computer monkey-wrenchers. A.H.

▶ **REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY AND MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN. FOR FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE GOINGOUTGUIDE.COM/MOVIES**



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GHOST RIDER
SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE

COLUMBIA PICTURES AND HYDE PARK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH IMAGENATION ABU DHABI A MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT/CRYSTAL SKY PICTURES/ASHOK AMRITRAJ/MICHAEL DE LUCA/ARAD PRODUCTION "GHOST RIDER" SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE CIARAN HINDS VIOLANTE PLACIDO JOHNNY WHITWORTH CHRISTOPHER LAMBERT AND IDRIS ELBA "DAVID SARDY"

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS E. BENNETT WALSH DAVID S. GOYER STAN LEE MARK STEVEN JOHNSON PRODUCED BY DAVID S. GOYER SCREENPLAY BY SCOTT M. GIMPLE & SETH HOFFMAN AND DAVID S. GOYER DIRECTED BY STEVEN PAUL ASHOK AMRITRAJ MICHAEL DE LUCA AVI ARAD ARI ARAD BASED UPON THE CHARACTER CREATED BY NEVELODINE/TAYLOR

IN 3D AND REAL D 3D

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
INTENSE SEQUENCES OF ACTION AND VIOLENCE, SOME DISTURBING IMAGES, AND LANGUAGE

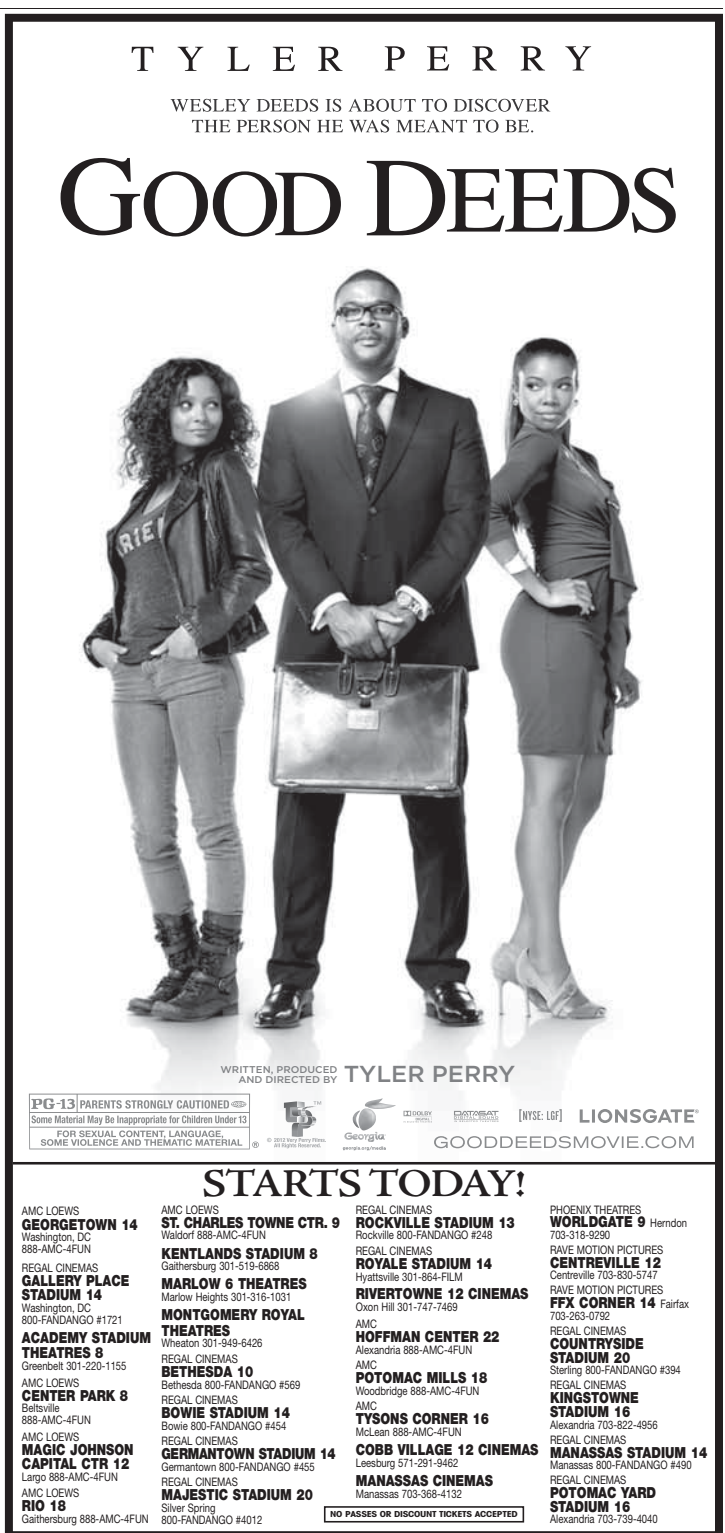
CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR THEATERS AND SHOWTIMES
SEE IT ON A BIG SCREEN

SONY
make.believe

TYLER PERRY

WESLEY DEEDS IS ABOUT TO DISCOVER
THE PERSON HE WAS MEANT TO BE.

GOOD DEEDS



WRITTEN, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY **TYLER PERRY**

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13
FOR SEXUAL CONTENT, LANGUAGE, SOME VIOLENCE AND THEMATIC MATERIAL

STARTS TODAY!

<p>AMC LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14 Washington, DC 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14 Washington, DC 800-FANDANGO #1721</p> <p>AMC LOEWS CENTER PARK 8 Beltville 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>AMC LOEWS MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CTR 12 Largo 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>AMC LOEWS RIO 18 Gaithersburg 888-AMC-4FUN</p>	<p>AMC LOEWS ST. CHARLES TOWNE CTR. 9 Waldorf 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS KENTLANDS STADIUM 8 Gaithersburg 301-919-6868</p> <p>MARLOW 6 THEATRES Marlow Heights 301-316-1031</p> <p>MONTGOMERY ROYAL THEATRES Wheaton 301-949-6426</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS BETHESDA 10 Bethesda 800-FANDANGO #569</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS BOWIE STADIUM 14 Bowie 800-FANDANGO #454</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14 Germantown 800-FANDANGO #455</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS MAJESTIC STADIUM 20 Silver Spring 800-FANDANGO #4012</p>	<p>REGAL CINEMAS ROCKVILLE STADIUM 13 Rockville 800-FANDANGO #248</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS ROYALE STADIUM 14 Hyattsville 301-864-FILM</p> <p>RIVERTOWNE 12 CINEMAS Oxon Hill 301-747-7469</p> <p>AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22 Alexandria 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18 Woodbridge 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>AMC TYSONS CORNER 16 McLean 888-AMC-4FUN</p> <p>COBB VILLAGE 12 CINEMAS Leesburg 571-291-9462</p> <p>MANASSAS CINEMAS Manassas 703-368-4132</p>	<p>PHOENIX THEATRES WORLDGATE 9 Herndon 703-318-9290</p> <p>RAVE MOTION PICTURES CENTREVILLE 12 Centreville 703-830-5747</p> <p>RAVE MOTION PICTURES FFX CORNER 14 Fairfax 703-265-0732</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20 Sterling 800-FANDANGO #394</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS KINGSTOWN STADIUM 16 Alexandria 703-822-4856</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS MANASSAS STADIUM 14 Manassas 800-FANDANGO #490</p> <p>REGAL CINEMAS POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16 Alexandria 703-739-4040</p>
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NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT TICKETS ACCEPTED

lookout **entertainment**



KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

top stops

1 Country Croon
That scruffy judge on “The Voice” who isn’t Adam Levine is Blake Shelton, one of country music’s most popular acts. (His song “Austin” will make you cry if you’re in the right kind of mood and/or have had a few too many.) He takes the stage Saturday with Justin Moore and Dia Frampton. **Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax; Sat., 7:30 p.m., \$30-\$55; 703-993-3000, Patriotcenter.com.**

2 Documentary Evidence
“Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory” is the last in a series of documentaries about the West Memphis Three, teenagers who were convicted of murdering three children, then released 18 years later after new evidence came to light. The National Archives is showing this best documentary Oscar nominee Saturday. **National Archives, 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; Sat., 7 p.m., free; 866-272-6272, Archives.gov. (Archives)**

3 [Insert Klingon Phrase Here]
Klingon is the nerd language for the masses — it doesn’t require so much time to learn that one begins to feel foolish. That’s why WSC Avant Bard isn’t doing “Shakespeare in Sindarin.” The company’s second one-night-only “Shakespeare in Klingon” performance is recruiting extras; applicants must arrive in Dupont Circle between 1 and 3 p.m. on Saturday for a chance to join the March 4 show. **Wscavantbard.org.**



Local movie times

DISTRICT
AMC Loews Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:00-3:00-8:10
Wanderlust (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 9:30-12:00-2:40-5:20-8:00-10:40
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:40-1:10-3:45-6:15-9:00
Pina 3D (PG) AMC INDEPENDENT: RealD 3D: 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:40-10:45
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 10:45-1:55
The Descendants (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: 9:50-12:40-3:30-6:30
This Means War (PG-13) CC-Closed Captions: (I) 9:40-12:10-2:50-5:30-8:20-10:55
The Artist (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 10:50-1:20-4:10-6:45-9:30
The Iron Lady (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 9:20
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:10-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 12:30-5:40-10:50
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 5:10-7:50-10:20
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: 11:00-1:50-4:20-7:10-9:45
The Vow (PG-13) 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:20-10:10
Safe House (R) 9:35-12:20-3:10-6:00-8:50-11:30
This Means War (PG-13) (I) 9:40-12:10-2:50-5:30-8:20-10:55
Act of Valor (R) (I) 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Gone (PG-13) (I) 10:20-12:50-3:20-5:50-8:30-11:00
AMC Loews Uptown 1
3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. www.AMCTheatres.com
Act of Valor (R) Digital Presentation: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
AMC Mazza Gallerie
5300 Wisconsin Ave. NW www.AMCTheatres.com
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 12:20-5:10-10:00
Safe House (R) Digital Presentation: 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:00-10:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:40-4:40-9:40
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 10:10-1:20-4:20-7:30-10:30
This Means War (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video: 10:20-12:40-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: 10:00-2:45-7:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:10-7:10
The Vow (PG-13) 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:55
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
Avalon
5612 Connecticut Avenue www.theavalon.org
Moneyball (PG-13) Six Oscar Nominations including Best Picture: 3:00
Puss in Boots (PG) Oscar Nominated Animated Film: 1:00
2012 Oscar Shorts: Animated (NR) Limited Engagement: 8:15
2012 Oscar Shorts: Live Action (NR) Limited Engagement: 5:45
My Week with Marilyn (R) Nominated for 2 Oscars: 2:45-7:45
Hugo (PG) 11 Oscar Nominations including Best Picture: 12:00-5:00
Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street NW www.landmarktheatres.com
Albert Nobbs (R) 2:20-7:20
The Descendants (R) 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:40
The Artist (PG-13) 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:40
The Iron Lady (PG-13) 1:20-4:10-7:00-9:55
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 1:00-3:50-6:40-9:30
A Separation (Jodaeie Nader az Simin) (PG-13) 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Shame (NC-17) 4:50-9:50
Oscar Nominated Live-Action Shorts (NR) 1:30-5:30-9:30
Crazy Horse (NR) 1:00-3:40-6:30-9:15-11:45
Oscar Nominated Animated Shorts 3:45-7:45
The Room (R) 12:00AM
All About Eve (NR) 12:00AM
Regal Gallery Place Stadium 14
707 Seventh Street NW www.regalcinemas.com
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) CC-Open Caption: 11:55AM
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 12:15
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 3:00-4:00-8:00
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 11:30-1:50-6:45-9:10
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 12:30-5:30-10:35
The Vow (PG-13) 11:45-2:25-4:55-7:25-10:05-12:30
Safe House (R) 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 4:20-11:40
Wanderlust (R) 11:40-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30-12:10
The Grey (R) 12:25-6:50-10:30-12:40
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 2:15-4:35-6:55-9:15-11:35

West End Cinema
2301 M Street NW <http://westendcinema.com/>
Bullhead (R) English Subtitles: 2:30-7:40-10:00
Coriolanus (R) Ralph Fiennes stars and directs: 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50
2012 Oscar Shorts: Documentary (NR) 5:00
Rampart (R) 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
MARYLAND
AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road www.afi.com/silver
The Artist (PG-13) 12:20-2:30-4:40-6:50-9:20
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 4:00-9:15
2012 Oscar Shorts: Animated (NR) 12:00
2012 Oscar Shorts: Live Action (NR) 1:45
Metropolis (1927) (NR) NO PASSES: (I) 7:30
AMC Loews Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 12:15-5:15-10:20
The Vow (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00-10:25
Safe House (R) Digital Presentation: 11:15-1:50-4:50-7:30-10:15
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Digital Presentation: 11:00-4:15-9:15
This Means War (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:40-2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:30
Act of Valor (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:50-1:45-4:40-7:15-10:00
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 2:45-7:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 1:30-6:45
Gone (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:30-1:00-3:30-5:50-8:15-10:45
AMC Loews White Flint 5
11301 Rockville Pike www.AMCTheatres.com
This Means War (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 1:25-4:35-7:15-9:55
Act of Valor (R) Digital Presentation: 1:10-4:20-7:00-9:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:10
The Vow (PG-13) 12:40-3:10-5:40-8:10-10:40
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25
AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way www.AMCTheatres.com
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 12:20-6:00
Safe House (R) Digital Presentation: 9:30-12:25-3:35-6:45-9:45-12:30
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:00-1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40
Act of Valor (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00-12:45
Red Tails (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 6:10-9:20
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: 9:50-10:30-1:30-3:05-4:05-7:05-8:50-10:10-11:20-12:35
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:10-9:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 10:20-1:05-3:40
The Vow (PG-13) 10:05-12:55-3:45-6:40-9:15-11:50
This Means War (PG-13) 10:45-1:25-4:10-6:50-9:40
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 9:15-12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30-12:20
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) 10:10-12:40-3:00-5:20-7:50-10:15-12:15
Gone (PG-13) 10:40-1:15-3:50-6:20-9:10-11:50
Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue www.landmarktheatres.com
Albert Nobbs (R) 2:30-5:30-8:30
The Descendants (R) 1:45-4:35-7:15-9:55
The Artist (PG-13) 1:35-4:15-6:45-9:15
A Separation (Jodaeie Nader az Simin) (PG-13) 1:15-4:00-7:05-9:50
The Iron Lady (PG-13) 2:00-4:30-7:00-9:30
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 2:15-5:15-8:15
A Dangerous Method (R) 4:05-9:45
War Horse (PG-13) 1:00-6:30
In Darkness (R) 1:40-4:45-8:00
Regal Bethesda 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue www.regalcinemas.com
Hugo 3D (PG) Digital 3D: (I) 1:05-9:40
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 3:50-6:45
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 2:25-4:40-10:15

Regal Hyattsville Royale Stadium 14
6505 America Blvd.
This Means War (PG-13) CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service: 2:25-5:05-7:55-10:30
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 1:35-2:20-5:00-7:40-9:50-10:25
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 2:15-7:25
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 4:20-7:10
Wanderlust (R) 2:10-4:50-7:35-10:10
The Vow (PG-13) 1:55-4:35-7:20-10:05
Safe House (R) 1:40-4:40-7:50-10:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 4:55-9:55
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 2:05-4:40-7:05-9:40
The Woman in Black (PG-13) 2:30
The Grey (R) 1:30
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 1:30-2:00-4:15-4:45-5:15-7:00-7:30-8:00-9:45-10:15-10:45
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) 4:20-7:15-10:00
Act of Valor (R) 1:50-4:25-7:45-10:20
Gone (PG-13) 1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
Regal Majestic 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive
Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) RealD 3D: (I) 1:25
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 4:05-7:10
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) CC-Open Caption: 1:00
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 4:00-6:55-12:15
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 12:40-1:50-3:20-6:00-8:45-9:50-11:30
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: (I) 12:35-2:55-5:30-8:00-10:20-12:40
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 1:55-7:00
Red Tails (PG-13) 10:00
The Vow (PG-13) 12:45-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:50
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 4:40-7:15-12:45
Safe House (R) 1:10-3:30-4:35-6:40-7:50-10:35-12:00
The Descendants (R) 2:40-5:15-8:05-10:55
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 4:25-9:20-12:00
Wanderlust (R) 2:30-5:00-7:30-9:55-12:30
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 3:35-6:05-8:30-11:15
The Grey (R) 12:50
This Means War (PG-13) 1:35-2:45-5:20-7:45-9:45-10:30
The Woman in Black (PG-13) 9:35
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) 2:00-4:10-6:25-8:35-10:45-12:40
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 12:30-1:45-2:20-3:00-4:20-5:05-5:40-6:50-7:40-8:15-9:25-10:15-11:00-11:55-12:45
Act of Valor (R) 1:15-2:15-3:50-4:50-6:20-7:25-8:50-10:10-11:20-12:35
Gone (PG-13) 1:30-3:45-6:35-9:05-11:35
VIRGINIA
AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd. www.AMCTheatres.com
Hugo 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:10
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
The Iron Lady (PG-13) AMC INDEPENDENT: 2:15-7:20
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:50
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 2:00-4:30-6:50-9:20
The Vow (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 1:50-4:10-6:40-9:00
The Grey (R) 4:45-9:40
Gone (PG-13) (I) 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:40-10:10
AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd. www.AMCTheatres.com
Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) RealD 3D: 11:45-2:10
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 12:35-5:45-10:55
Wanderlust (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 9:55-12:30-3:05-5:40-8:10-10:45
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) Digital Presentation: 9:50-12:25-3:00

(I) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: 12:15-3:35-6:50-10:00
The Descendants (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: Digital Presentation: 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:25
The Woman in Black (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 12:00-2:20-4:45-7:20-9:50-12:10
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) Digital Presentation: (I) 10:00-1:00-3:50-6:40-9:40-12:30
Act of Valor (R) Digital Presentation: (I) 9:30-11:15-12:20-2:05-3:15-4:55-6:15-7:45-9:15-10:35-12:15
My Week with Marilyn (R) AMC INDEPENDENT: (I) 11:40AM
The Grey (R) Digital Presentation: 10:30
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 10:05-3:10-4:35-7:10-8:20-9:45-12:20
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) Digital Presentation: 10:30-12:50-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:15-12:25
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) IMAX 3D: 11:00-1:35-4:10-6:45-9:20-11:55
The Vow (PG-13) 11:35-2:15-4:55-7:35-10:20
Safe House (R) 10:15-1:10-4:05-7:00-9:55-12:40
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) (I) 9:45-12:25-2:55-5:25-7:55-10:25
This Means War (PG-13) (I) 10:20-12:55-2:15-3:30-4:50-6:05-7:30-8:40-10:05-11:15-12:30
Red Tails (PG-13) 9:35-12:40-3:40-6:35-9:35-12:25
Gone (PG-13) (I) 9:40-12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10-12:35
Safe House (R) Digital Presentation: 5:35-8:30-11:25
Regal Ballston Common 12
671 N. Glebe Road www.regalcinemas.com
This Means War (PG-13) CC-Open Caption: 3:00
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 12:50-3:30-6:10-9:00
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 4:00-6:55-12:15
Safe House (R) 1:05-4:00-4:30-7:20-10:00-10:40
The Descendants (R) 1:00-3:40-6:30-9:20
Wanderlust (R) 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:20
This Means War (PG-13) 1:10-3:55-5:30-6:20-8:00-9:30-10:30
The Artist (PG-13) 2:20-5:00-7:30-9:50
Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (R) 1:30-7:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 12:40-7:00
Act of Valor (R) 2:10-4:50-7:40-10:10
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 4:10
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) 1:20-3:50-6:40-9:10
Regal Kingstowne 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) CC-Open Caption: 12:05
Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 12:45-4:05-7:05-10:15
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 12:20-1:45-3:00-5:30-6:50-10:35
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 12:00-7:00
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 4:15-9:25
The Vow (PG-13) 1:50-4:20-6:55-9:30
Wanderlust (R) 12:20-2:40-5:00-7:30-10:05
Safe House (R) 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:00
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 2:20-4:40-9:35
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 2:25-4:45-7:10
This Means War (PG-13) 12:15-2:50-5:15-7:40-10:10
Red Tails (PG-13) 12:35
The Woman in Black (PG-13) 4:25-9:40
The Grey (R) 1:35-6:45
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 12:00-1:00-2:35-3:40-5:10-6:25-8:00-9:05-10:35
Act of Valor (R) 12:30-1:30-2:55-4:00-5:20-6:35-7:45-9:20-10:25
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) 3:20-5:35-7:55-10:20
Gone (PG-13) 12:25-2:45-5:05-7:25-9:45
Regal Potomac Yard 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Highway www.regalcinemas.com
Underworld: Awakening 3D (R) RealD 3D: (I) 2:55
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) CC-Open Caption: 1:55
Ghost Rider 3D: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) RealD 3D: (I) 5:30-8:10-11:00
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) RealD 3D: (I) 1:30-7:05
Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (PG-13) 4:35-7:15-9:55
The Vow (PG-13) 1:15-4:05-7:00-9:40
Safe House (R) 1:10-2:00-4:55-6:35-7:50-10:35-12:00
Red Tails (PG-13) 3:50-9:15
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 4:15-9:20
Wanderlust (R) 2:15-5:00-7:40-10:10
The Woman in Black (PG-13) 12:50
The Grey (R) 1:35-6:40
The Secret World of Arrietty (Kari-gurashi no Arrietty) (G) 12:50-3:20-6:00-9:00
This Means War (PG-13) 3:05-5:35-8:05-10:30
Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 1:05-1:50-2:35-3:55-4:40-5:25-6:45-7:30-8:15-9:35-10:20-11:05-11:45
Chronicle (2012) (I) (PG-13) 4:20-9:25
Act of Valor (R) 1:40-2:25-4:30-5:10-7:10-8:00-9:50-10:40-12:00
Gone (PG-13) 2:05-4:50-7:20-9:45-12:00

TV weekend **lookout**

It's Good to Be 'Maury'

The TV veteran's talk show sees its best ratings in five years

Television

Behind a backstage door, Maury Povich leafs through papers and listens to his producers brief him on that day's paternity mysteries. He checks the pronunciation of a name or two, tries to get straight which man is claiming a childhood testicular injury. Then he's ready.

"Let's play the game," the veteran TV personality says as he rises and heads toward the door. A couple of turns down a hallway later, he steps onto a stage as a roar of recognition greets him.

In the post-Oprah Winfrey daytime world, these are good days to be Maury Povich. His show has its best ratings in five years, and Povich, 73, has signed on for another season after this, the show's 14th year. "Maury" is the top talk show among young viewers. And there's



Maury Povich, left, delivers major life news on a recent episode of "Maury."

an inexhaustible supply of people who don't mind telling cringe-worthy stories about themselves.

Before delivering DNA results to talk show guests, Povich was a longtime broadcast journalist in Washington. Yet since he went to "A Current Affair" in 1986, Povich knows he's going to get some disapproving looks from other guests at snooty cocktail parties. That's when he heads to the kitchen, or talks to

the bartender. His people.

He said he's always wanted to tell stories and still does. If people look down on him for doing that, he looks down on them.

A friend recently tut-tutted Povich about the show, shaking his head and saying he wouldn't do it for a million dollars. Povich's eyes twinkled as he recalled his response. "I said, 'Neither would I.'" DAVID BAUDER (AP)

Best Bets

FRI
8:00

Who Do You Think You Are? (NBC)

Actor Blair Underwood, right ("L.A. Law"), has always wanted to trace his family history. In this new episode, he uncovers articles with interesting information about what his forebears experienced.



FRI
8:00

Kitchen Nightmares (FOX)

Who'd have thought a little three-letter word could be so controversial? In this new episode, Gordon meets the owner of Baltimore's Cafe Hon, who is under fire from the city for trademarking the word "Hon."

SAT
9:00

Parking Wars (A&E)

In the first of two new episodes, booters Rodney and Michele and ticketer Sonjia are all on the receiving end of angry tirades by drivers in Detroit.

SUN
8:00



Cupcake Wars (FOOD)

Run for your lives! The cupcakes are coming! In this new episode, four bakers compete to have their creations served at the closing-night VIP party at the horror film festival Screamfest. Director Eli Roth, left ("Hostel"), helps pick the winner.

(TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Critters



Enter the Adorable

The latest Puppy Bowl is history, but "Too Cute!" (Sat., 9 p.m., Animal Planet), the showcase for adorable baby critter moments, is back with new episodes for those in need of a cuteness fix. This one features an 11-pup litter of Rottweilers, a pack of mini-Australian shepherds and three pug puppies trying out an agility course. (TM)



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2	\$50,940
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Arlington—\$1650.00, 3 br, 1 ba, 110 S. Wise St, Arlington, VA, heat, water, 7039202639

ARLINGTON - 3 BR, 1 BA, \$1575/month. Close to public transportation. Call 202-829-2995
Leave a message for a callback.

Herndon—3BR/2.5BA Townhome for rent imm. available, \$2100, moving incentive/detail, Call 703-819-0873

Woodbridge—\$1,650.00, Huge End Unit Townhouse 4 br, 3 LVL, 4500 Sparrow Court, Woodbridge - Open House Sat-Sun 11-1pm 703-861-7765

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\$495 incld util. Please call **703-945-5617**

ALEX/FORTBELVOIR - Prefer Responsible Male to share furnished TH. \$700, private BA, utilities included. No pets. Call **703-303-1237**

ANDREWS AFB AREA Large Furnished rm. Incls internet, cable TV & utilis, Near Metro. **301-312-7004**

ARLINGTON/FALLS CHURCH, VA: FURNISHED \$880 incl util & maid srvc. lg BR + ofc studio+ Pvt BA, N/S, N/P @lux TH **703.243.7755**

BOWIE - Shr furn hse in quiet setting, pref M, Net, Sat TV, kit/laun priv, convenient. \$750/mo Call **301-328-4286**

Bowie/Upper Marlboro Share house, room in basement \$585 all utilities/cable paid. Sec dep. Near metro/bus. No Smoking. **301-249-3879**

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No smk/pets. **301-420-4980**

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Female to shr condo, pvt BA. Shopping, bus line. \$600 pays all. **703-899-7026**

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LANHAM, MD- 1BR, pvt entrance, kit/ba. \$875/mo inc utilis. Security dep req. Call **240-423-7923**

LANHAM - Share SFH. MBR \$600; 3BRs in bsmt. LR. pvt entr. \$500; deck, big back yard. **240-899-9577**

LAUREL, MD- Furn room \$650/mo or \$170/wk, incl util. Int & Cbl/TV, Sharehouse, kitchen & W/D. Call **301-370-6587**

MOUNTRAINER, MD—Beautiful rms for rent. 1 pers per rm. M/F. \$625-\$675, studio bsmt \$950. utilis incl. Near bus. Prof Mgmt. **301-220-1613**

NE DC - Professional person. Excellent neighborhood. Close to Metro. \$600/month, cable avail. Call **301-537-1992**

ROOMMATES

OLNEY, MD- Shr condo, 1BR avail. W/D, pool, tennis. Nr trans/shops. NS/NP. Avail 3/1. \$550+elec. **240-351-5150**

RIVERDALE, MD- N/S. Share home, 1 rm for 1 person. Avail now. \$499 includess utilities, W/D. \$499 sec dep. **301-613-0446**

ROCKVILLE, MD- Sharehse. MBR, pvt BA, entrance. Nr trans/shops. NS/NP. \$727+utils. Avail 3/1. **240-351-5150**

SE- Female preferred, 2 rooms for rent in 3 BR TH, private bath in one. \$160 & \$180 week + Deposit. Near Metro, W/D. Call **202-582-0172**

SE - Share Newly Renov. Fully furn. W/D, Jacuzzi Tub, Full Kit, Nr Metro/Shops. **\$150/\$375 per wk. Jasper St. 202-889-2810**

SIL SPG-N/S, safe, 5 star delux furn suite, shr kit, W/D, priv ba/priv ent., Cbl/int, nr trans & shops, prking, \$210 per week. Util incl Sam: **301-962-7171**

SILVER SPRING/FAIRLANDMD- F pref. MBR for rent w/priv BA. \$650 + electric. Depreq. Avail now. **301-272-5851**

TAKOMA PARK- non-smoking, close to all transp, furn rm, \$700 incld cab/net and utilis. Call: **301-434-3242**

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CARS

CHEVROLET 1967 NOVA SS- Race car. 502 BB, runs 590s ET, PG trans, MSD ignition. \$18,000. **540-298-9425**

FLEETWOOD PROVIDENCE 2008 39R- Lux M.H. w/ all options, 12K miles, garage kept, diesel, full warr thru 2015. \$155,000. Call **410-279-7173**

LOOK

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82,000 miles, loaded, new battery, runs great, must move it. Best offer. Call **301-499-7114**

GMC 2002 ENVOY SLT - 120K, blk, all pwr, mnfr, loaded, hitch, luggage rack, htd seats, keyless entry, OnStar ready, 4x4, excl \$7500. **301-802-6427**

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VOLKSWAGEN 1997 GOLF - green, runs & drives good, 4 new tires, sunroof. \$1700/OBO. Call **240-603-9191**

MOTORCYCLES

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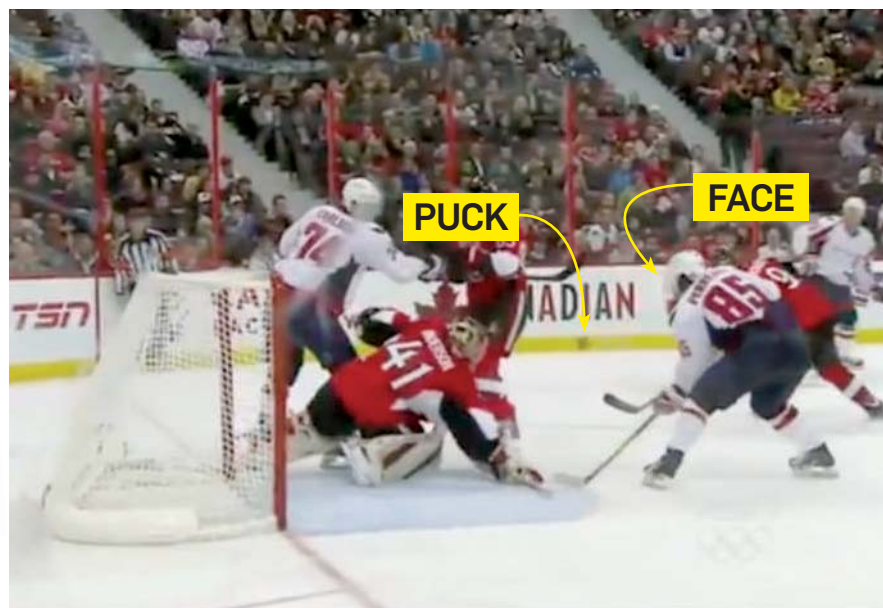
Activate your lifestyle

Activate your lifestyle

Activate your lifestyle

Activate your lifestyle

Transform your lifestyle

lookout online

▲
“Nice move, Meanie McTerrible! You might not be aware of this, but Girl Scouts aren’t just tiny militant sex fiends who terrorize their neighbors with delicious cookies — they are also children. And it’s generally not considered appropriate to harass young girls with your views on abortion.”

— **CASSIE MURDOCH AT JEZEBEL.COM** mockingly reacts to the story of a 10-year-old girl in Reston, Va., whose mother claims the girl was stunned and upset when an adult neighbor denounced abortion when the girl showed up at the neighbor’s door to sell cookies.

▲
“How he scored the goal, however, is definitely noteworthy. Perreault was in front of the crease and deflected a puck into the net with his face. More specifically, he used his tongue. Now, imagine this for a moment. What do you come up with? I imagined Perreault sliding down the ice with his tongue out in a scene more likely to be found in a cartoon than on the ice in the NHL. Sadly, this was not the case.”

— **SBNATION.COM** reacts to Capitals forward Mathieu Perreault’s unorthodox goal in a 4-2 loss to the Senators Wednesday night.

▲
“Our analysis: Nothing to hate, but nothing to write home to Mom about, either.”

— **MEDIABISTRO.COM/FISHBOWLDC** isn’t particularly impressed with The Associated Press’ new logo, its first significant change in 30 years, which was released on Thursday.

▲
“There needs to be a top-down shift in how Metro officials think about harassment. It isn’t just compliments. It isn’t just attempts at flirtation. It’s about feeling unsafe — and being unsafe — in public places.”

— **SHANI HILTON AT WASHINGTONCITYPAPER.COM/BLOG/CITYDESK** was displeased with Metro officials’ attitudes during a D.C. Council hearing about sexual harassment in the system. Metro spokesman Dan Stessel told WUSA9, “One person’s harassment is another person’s flirting.”

▲
“When it comes to award shows, Sacha Baron Cohen knows how to make an entrance and get people talking. ... While this might be viewed as the Academy being grumpy and old-fashioned, there’s actually a decent explanation. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has always been against promoting future films during the ceremony.”

— **ETHAN ANDERTON AT FIRSTSHOWING.NET** understands the Academy’s reticence in letting the actor on the Oscars’ red carpet ahead of his forthcoming film “The Dictator.”

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You don't want to jump to conclusions today; wait until you have received all available information before passing judgment.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may be surprised by how quickly the hours pass today, even though you are not as involved as you expected to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Someone can help you from afar today, thanks to technological advances — and a little good luck. Keep lines of communication open at all times.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Information that comes to you is likely to affect you in a manner not expected by those who have been in your position before.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It is important that you think for yourself and draw your own conclusions today. Do not, however, be contrary just to be contrary!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The predictions that others share with you may get you thinking — but you'll stop short of making any predictions of your own.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Studying will help you get through a tough time today. After that, you can use what you know to help someone else in need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You cannot believe what your dreams have been telling you — and yet every day you are faced with more evidence that confirms them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A routine development may mean more today than expected, thanks to the involvement of the new kid on the block.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) An accident of some kind may change the course of your day more significantly than you are able to anticipate. Be ready to adjust.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may want to let things settle down a bit before you speak your mind — especially at the workplace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may have to work harder than usual to keep up with the day's developments. A member of your immediate family holds an important key.

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 145-155, BEST SCORE 212

A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	Y ₄	G ₂	C ₃	N ₁

--

 RACK 1

A ₁	O ₁	U ₁	U ₁	D ₂	S ₁	R ₁

2nd Letter Double

--

 RACK 2

A ₁	E ₁	U ₁	Y ₄	D ₂	R ₁	N ₁

--

 RACK 3

A ₁	E ₁	O ₁	D ₂	N ₁	T ₁	P ₃

Triple Word Score

--

 RACK 4

Yesterday's Solution

L ₁	I ₁	G ₂	H ₄	T ₁	E ₁	N ₁	RACK 1 =	61
G ₂	I ₁	M ₃	M ₃	I ₁	C ₃	K ₅	RACK 2 =	104
F ₄	U ₁	N ₁	N ₁	E ₁	L ₁		RACK 3 =	9
P ₃	R ₁	O ₁	F ₄	E ₁	S ₁	S ₁	RACK 4 =	63
PAR SCORE 145-155								TOTAL
								237

FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

DIFFICULT

7		1		8			9	
				2				3
8		3		4		6	7	
2				8				
				7	9	1		
					4			7
	8	2		7		4		9
9				3				
	3			1		8		5

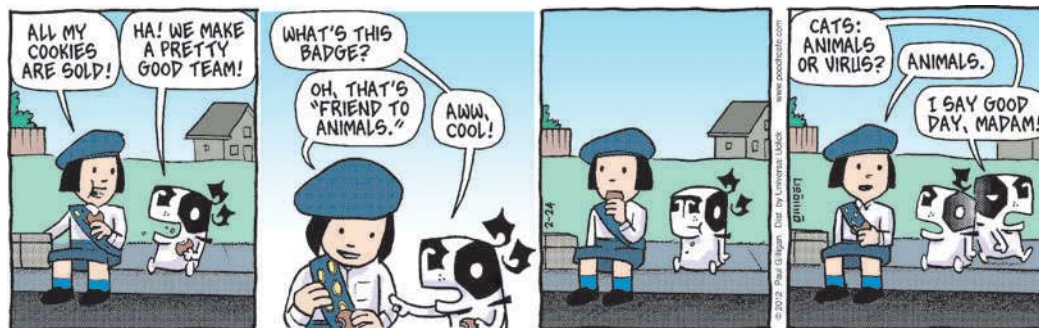
Yesterday's Solution

1	2	3	4	7	8	9	6	5
4	9	5	3	1	6	2	8	7
8	6	7	9	2	5	3	1	4
7	8	6	5	4	2	1	9	3
5	4	1	6	9	3	7	2	8
9	3	2	7	8	1	4	5	6
3	1	8	2	5	4	6	7	9
2	7	4	8	6	9	5	3	1
6	5	9	1	3	7	8	4	2

Need more Sudolku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Comics

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

75 | 39

Today: Becoming windier and warm today with a thunderstorm. Windy tonight.

50 | 31

Tomorrow: Partly sunny, windy and cooler tomorrow. Mainly clear tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

SUN **MON** **TUE**
47 | 32 56 | 39 57 | 41

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 6:49 a.m.
 Sunset today: 5:55 p.m.
 Moonrise today: 7:45 a.m.
 Moonset today: 8:55 p.m.

Almanac

Normal high: 49
 Record high: 78
 Normal low: 32
 Record low: 11

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2012

Crossword

MAYDAY!

ACROSS

1 They might precede
bravos
6 Does one better
than
10 Energy-focused
org.
14 "___ for the sky!"
(cry in a western)
15 Singular operatic
performance
16 The Vatican's
vicinity
17 ___ allegro (very
quickly)
18 Boxing officials
(abbr.)
19 ___-Cola
20 SOS card
23 Volvo's homeland
25 It's obtained by
leaching
26 "Do the Right
Thing" director
27 Fall into decay
28 Economy size
31 Apply a bandage to
33 A very small
quantity
35 Sallie ___
(student loan
company)
36 Amateur's
antonym

37 SOS Bible book
42 "... ____ daily bread"
43 Howard Hughes' airline
44 Evidence of healing
46 Church engagement announcement
49 Home of Barack Obama's father
51 Indecisive result
52 "How was ____ know?"
53 ____ chi
55 Ailing
57 SOS donation
61 Coil in the yard
62 1952 Winter Olympics setting
63 Administrators (with "out")
66 Portentous sign
67 '50s French president Coty
68 Non-reactive, like some gases
69 Aphid, to a gardener
70 A cheese
71 "A Modest Proposal," e.g.

DOWN

1 Supply with guns

- 2 "Anna Karenina"
- author Tolstoy
- 3 Register for Tiny
- Tim
- 4 Appeared on stage
- 5 Snow-removing
- tool
- 6 Alpine lake
- 7 White-and-black
- stacked snack
- 8 Senseless talk
- 9 Backtalking
- 10 "Free Willy"
- animal
- 11 Sometimes-dyed
- dog
- 12 Awards-show
- hosts
- 13 Discontinues
- 21 Inflame with love
- 22 California's San
- ____ Bay
- 23 "Lanka" start
- 24 Seeks the
- affection of
- 29 Battle of Britain
- fliers (abbr.)
- 30 "Beau ____"
- 32 CD-____ (computer
- inserts)
- 34 "Author" of many
- quotations
- 36 Emphasize the
- importance of

38 Hearty or keen
enjoyment
39 Rent to ____
(purchasing option)
40 Eightsomes
(var.)
41 Manicurist's
concern
45 ____ paese
(cheese)
46 Certain chess
piece
47 In one's abode
48 Hangman's
knots
49 Exchanged

smacks
50 Absence of
societal values
54 Earlier, in
poetry
56 Brown
songbirds
58 "They ____
thataway!"
59 Bone below the
elbow
60 Rhyming
literature
64 "Big Band," for
one
65 Barnyard pen

Yesterday's Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	B	E	A	N	O	U	S	A	F	O	A	S
17	B	E	A	N	O	U	S	A	F	O	A	S
17	B	E	O	Y	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	T
23	E	N	S	I	G	N	D	E	C	I	M	A
23	T	U	T	S	N	A	S	A	C	O	R	N
26	I	S	M	E	L	S	L	A	R	V	A	E
26	I	S	M	E	L	S	L	A	R	V	A	E
31	M	I	R	O	T	E	C	O	R	N	A	V
35	M	A	D	O	N	N	A	N	D	C	H	I
35	M	A	D	O	N	N	A	N	D	C	H	I
40	B	R	A	V	O	D	I	N	E	D	E	C
40	B	R	A	V	O	D	I	N	E	D	E	C
44	I	T	S	E	L	F	L	O	N	S	S	N
44	I	T	S	E	L	F	L	O	N	S	S	N
51	R	A	I	D	I	O	N	S	S	N	S	N
51	R	A	I	D	I	O	N	S	S	N	S	N
56	M	A	N	T	I	C	S	T	E	P	E	R
56	M	A	N	T	I	C	S	T	E	P	E	R
64	E	V	I	L	L	O	W	E	R	G	I	R
64	E	V	I	L	L	O	W	E	R	G	I	R
67	U	F	L	O	N	A	N	N	A	L	L	A
67	U	F	L	O	N	A	N	N	A	L	L	A
70	L	Y	N	X	P	O	T	T	P	O	T	T
70	L	Y	N	X	P	O	T	T	P	O	T	T

EDITED BY TIMOTHY F. PARKER

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
		20				21					22			
23	24							25				26		
27				28		29	30			31	32			
33			34		35				36					
	37			38				39				40	41	
			42				43				44			45
46	47	48				49				50		51		
52				53	54				55		56			
57			58				59	60						
61					62					63			64	65
66					67					68				
69					70					71				

Samurai Sudoku

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

Last Week's Solution

[illegible][illegible]

DIFFICULT

Today in History

1868 The House of Representatives impeaches President Andrew Johnson after his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

2007 The Virginia General Assembly passes a resolution expressing "profound regret" for the state's role in slavery.

2011 Discovery, the world's most traveled spaceship, thunders into orbit for the final time, heading toward the International Space Station and marking the beginning of the end of the shuttle era.

express

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people **lookout**

NEVER LIVE IT DOWN 'Six Kids Ago, I Wore This Goon's Blood in a Vial Around My Neck.'

Angelina Jolie has written the foreword to Billy Bob Thornton's memoir, "The Billy Bob Tapes: A Cave Full of Ghosts," coming out in mid-May, according to People.com. Thornton is Jolie's second husband; they divorced in 2003. The cover of the book notes it includes "commentary by Robert Duvall, Dwight Yoakam and Tom Epperson." (EXPRESS)



REACTIONS

1. Sweden Has a King? 2. PRINCESS BABY!!!!

Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria gave birth to her first child Thursday, a baby girl who will one day become queen. The girl is second in line to the Swedish throne. Both the crown princess and the baby are "doing very well," Victoria's husband, Prince Daniel, told reporters. Victoria, 34, is next in line to the throne held by her father since 1973. (AP)



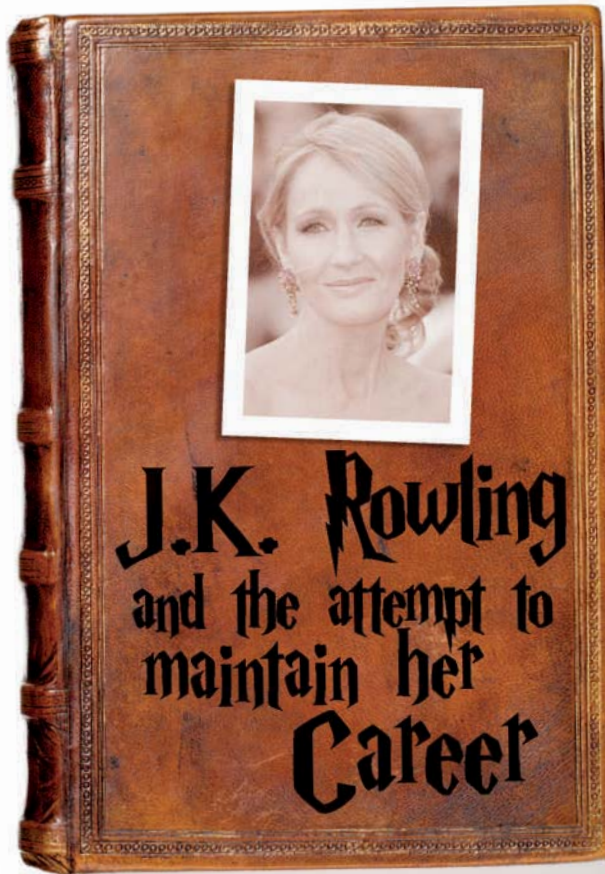
Unlike Princess Kate, Sweden's Princess Victoria bothers to have children.

Dirtbag Digest



'This Paycheck Has So Few Zeros'

Michael Lohan, who is undergoing court-ordered counseling as part of a plea deal in a domestic violence case, has taken a job at a Miami radio station, TMZ.com reported. Lohan was told he needed to get a job to transition back into society. "Mike will primarily take on the grunt work" at WILD 95.5, TMZ wrote. The job pays \$8.25 an hour. (EXPRESS)



EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

REQUESTS

Please Be Gritty Urban Realism

J.K. Rowling has an agreement with Little, Brown to release her first adult novel. The title, release date and details about the book, long rumored, were not announced. "Although I've enjoyed writing it every bit as much, my next book will be very different to the Harry Potter series," Rowling said in a statement. "The freedom to explore new territory is a gift that Harry's success has brought me." (AP)



WHAT EVERYONE IS THINKING Aww, an Award. Who Cares? Because You Found a Man!

Jennifer Aniston received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Wednesday, People.com reported. Adam Sandler introduced her to the crowd: "I love this girl. My wife loves this girl. The entire world loves this girl. But mostly her family: Pops, Mom, brothers, fake sisters [long pause] and handsome and well-educated Justin Theroux loves this girl." (EXPRESS)

"Behind my eyes, I was begging for things my lips would never ask/ And my mouth kept pouring desperate clauses of random intent."



— LYRICS FROM THE NEW PARIS HILTON SINGLE 'DRUNK TEXT,' THE VIDEO OF WHICH WAS RELEASED THURSDAY ON YOUTUBE, THEN QUICKLY TAKEN DOWN.

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